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Maintenance of international security: stability and development of South-Eastern Europe

Effects of atomic radiation

Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 15 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a document entitled "Facts on consequences of the use of depleted uranium in the NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia", prepared by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 67 (b), 82, 95 (a) and 155, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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A/55/398
S/2000/883

Annex to the letter dated 15 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

FACTS ON CONSEQUENCES OF THE USE OF DEPLETED URANIUM IN THE NATO AGGRESSION AGAINST THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA IN 1999

I

In the NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1999, called "Humanitarian intervention - Guardian Angel", commander of French air force in NATO, General Joffret stated:[1]

"The air force received orders to destroy life in Serbia".

1. NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, from 24 March to 10 June 1999, was committed in gross violation of the fundamental principles of international relations and international law in general. All available military NATO capacities were engaged, circumventing the role and violating the mandate of the UN Security Council and the founding act of NATO. It caused extensive loss of life, humanitarian, economic and environmental catastrophe whose tragic consequences cannot be limited in terms of time or territory. In its intensity, engaged military force and consequences, this is **the largest and most drastic aggression** in the period after the Second World War. Over the territory of the FRY, 25,200 sorties were flown and 25,000 tons of explosives were dropped.

Women, children, the elderly, bus and train passengers, passers-by on the bridges were killed. 2,500 persons lost their lives, out of whom 30 per cent were children. More than 10,000 persons were wounded, out of whom more than 40 per cent children.

Residential quarters, bridges, roads, railways, oil refineries, chemical facilities, vital business structures, TV and radio transmitters were destroyed or heavily damaged. Many health and education institutions, cultural monuments, churches, monasteries, cemeteries were also razed to the ground. According to the initial estimates, overall material damage exceeds US$ 100 billion.

2. In view of the above, the NATO aggression on the FR of Yugoslavia represents a crime against peace and humanity and a crime of genocide. The Government of the FR of Yugoslavia submitted an Application to the International Court of Justice in The Hague against ten NATO Member States which committed the aggression by bombing the territory of the FR of Yugoslavia, including systematic, deliberate attacks on civilians and non-military targets. By causing extensive environmental damage and using depleted uranium munitions, cluster and carbon-fibre bombs, the relevant provision of the Genocide Convention, banning the imposition of such conditions of life aimed at **physically destroying in whole or in part a national group**, was violated.[2]

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1 The statement of the commander of French air force in NATO for France Info and France International was quoted in his letter by Michel Fontanie, President of ASFED FRANCE (Association pour la sauvegarde des familles et enfants de disparus), Strasbourg, 27 May 1999, Annex 1

2 Article 2c of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948

3. After the end of the NATO aggression, under UN SC resolution 1244 (1999), the international security presence (KFOR) was mandated to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia and the FR of Yugoslavia, to ensure physical and property safety of the population, to ensure public peace, order and the rule of law, security and basic protection of ethnic and religious communities in the Serb Province of Kosovo and Metohija (hereinafter: the Province). However, the result of their one-year long presence in the Province is the prevailing chaos and insecurity, crime and ethnic cleansing of the non-Albanian population. Since the arrival of KFOR and UNMIK, 1,500 citizens were killed and more than 2,000 abducted, mostly Serbs and Montenegrins, then Muslims, Roma, Goranci, Turks, Egyptians. More than 50,000 Serb houses were burned, more than 360,000 Serbs and Montenegrins, and members of other non-Albanian ethnic groups were expelled, and around 100 churches, monasteries and medieval cultural monuments were destroyed and burned and Orthodox cemeteries desecrated. Private and state property is forcibly seized, and the Province has been turned into a centre of organised international crime, arms and drug smuggling and white slavery, etc. These terrorist and other criminal acts, committed by Albanian terrorist groups, have often been carried out with the assistance of KFOR and UNMIK and that is the reason why the perpetrators of the most serious crimes against Serbs and other non-Albanian ethnic groups have not been brought to justice.

4. Radio France International (RFI), in its commentary of 11 August 2000, says that humanitarian organisations active in the "humanitarian war", only now after one-year presence in the Province, express their concern for the fate of non-Albanian population. So, "Medicines sans frontieres" announced that they would withdraw from the Province because of ethnic cleansing and violence against the non-Albanian population. The "Helsinki Federation for Human Rights" claims that the authorities in the Province of Kosovo and Metohija are responsible for violence against the non-Albanian population and that life is full of dangers and difficult particularly for the Serbs in the enclaves. In addition, several months ago the US organization "Human Rights Watch" criticised the bombing of civilian targets by NATO in the war that only a year before it also considered "humanitarian" and unreservedly supported. RFI further states that since the end of the war around 250 humanitarian organisations have been active in the Province. The violence against civilians and ethnic cleansing of the non-Albanian population reached their peak in the first months after the end of the war, often in the presence of soldiers or observers. No humanitarian organization reported it or was it covered by the media. On the other hand, during the war, when no one actually could have any reliable information on what was going on in the Province of Kosovo and Metohija, humanitarian organisations, almost on a daily basis, made statements on extreme violence, which were totally unconfirmed and proven untrue, which the media, also unreservedly, carried on the front pages, with dramatic headlines. This ethnic cleansing in the Province of Kosovo and Metohija after the war, is **the most discreet and most efficient ethnic cleansing in the past years in the world**, right in the heart of Europe, in the very presence of numerous media and humanitarian organisations, concludes RFI.[3]

[3] S. Cerovic, Radio France International, 11 August 2000

I I

By deliberately destroying oil refineries, chemical installations as well as by using prohibited weapons with **depleted uranium** ammunition (DU), it intentionally caused environmental disaster with unforeseeable consequences for the population of the FR of Yugoslavia and the countries in the region. The use of DU weapons in Yugoslavia **"adds a new dimension to the crime NATO** is perpetrating against the Yugoslav people including those in Kosovo". [4]

5. During the armed NATO aggression against the FR of Yugoslavia, it was established beyond doubt that US A-10 aircraft fired shells with depleted uranium (DU). According to the information of the Army of Yugoslavia, some 50,000 missiles with DU were fired on some 100 densely populated locations in the Serb province of Kosovo and Metohija. It was also established that 3,000-5,000 DU shells were fired on 8 locations outside the Province – of which six in the region of Preševo and Bujanovac (and one in a broader area of Vranje and one in Montenegro). The Yugoslav authorities undertook a detailed investigation of all locations outside the Province and established that contamination is going up to 235,000 Bq/kg, which is **1,100 times above** than the permissible level of contamination. The contaminated areas were marked and other activities are underway to deal with the consequences.[5]

US Department of Defense refused to release information about the locations and quantities of DU used in the territory of the FR of Yugoslavia. In his letter to P. Sullivan, Executive Director of NGWRC of 19 July 1999, the Director of the Joint Staff denied access to this information because "The issues related to the use of DU in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia area of operations are **under litigation in the International Court of Justice**. Any answers we provide at this time may impact the interests of the United States in these proceedings".[6]

At the request of UN Secretary-General K. Annan, NATO Secretary-General G. Robertson, in his letter of 7 February 2000, confirmed that throughout the territory of the Province of Kosovo and Metohija, in approximately 100 air strikes, around 31,000 rounds of DU ammunition were used (which is equivalent to 10 tons of DU) and attached a map with only 28 locations, saying that "at this moment it is impossible to state accurately every location where DU ammunition was used".[7] (It was not said why it was impossible at this moment, nor when it will be possible, if in July 1999 it was not possible). Following the publication of this information, the Pentagon spokesman stated that DU shells are "not environmentally harmful, nor do they present a significant impact on health"[8].

6. Nevertheless, the USA knows best the characteristics of DU weapons and deliberately use it to cause long-standing suffering and consequences to the future generations. On the basis of many research studies conducted after the Gulf war by US institutes, particularly by the Army Environmental Policy

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[4] John Catalinotto, DU Education Project of the International Action Center, New York

[5] Report of the FRY, The consequences of NATO bombing on environment, item 5.1

[6] National Gulf War Resource Center-NGWRC, Military Toxics Project, D. Fahey, "A Fear of Falling", page 20, 4 August 1999, Washington.

[7] A letter of NATO Secretary General G. Robertson to UN Secretary-General K.Annan, 7 February 2000, Annex 2

[8] Reuters, 23 March 2000

Institute,[9] it was established beyond doubt, that DU contaminates both environment and affects population on a lasting basis - development of tumors, immune system damage, neurological problems, respiratory disease, kidney damage and male and female reproductive effects, newly-borns with deformities, etc.

DU is radioactive and chemically toxic waste product of the nuclear industry. According to US Army researches, the intoxication of inhaled DU depends largely upon the size and solubility of the oxide. The quantity, size and solubility of oxide created by an impact may vary considerably, but the aerosol is generally understood to contain a high percentage, 50 to 96 per cent, of respirable-size particles.[10] Respirable size insoluble particles may deposit in various lung compartments and remain there for years irradiating the tissue, and cause increased incidence of respiratory disorders, and soluble particles are transported from the lungs into the blood and further transported to distal organs.[11] DU is oxidized in body fluids and transported in the bloodstream and deposits in the bones, kidneys, lymph nodes, muscles, testicles and brain, thus causing kidney damage, cancers of the lung and bone, respiratory disease, skin disorders, neurocognitive disorders, chromosomal damage, and birth defects.[12]

The degree of danger is illustrated by the fact that in February 1980 a court order from the State of New York **"for reason of public health"** forced National Lead Industries, a manufacturer of DU tips, to stop production since they had exceeded the prescribed monthly limits of discharging radioactive material into the air corresponding to 387g. of DU (the trip of only one shell in the aircraft gun contains 298 g. of DU). Scientist Leonard Dietz, in his letter to the Atomic Scientists Bulletin, asked this question: "If the authorities of the State of New York were worried about discharges that were **the monthly** equivalent of the particles in only one or two uranium projectiles, why wasn't the US government worried about the effect of tens of thousands of projectiles fired in the several days of the war".[13]

7. The effect of DU is lasting (DU has a half-life of 4.5 billion years) and its chemical and **radiological toxicity cannot be reduced**. If inhaled or ingested though water and food it cannot be removed from the body, acting as a quiet killer. In addition to **cancer and leukemia**, which occur within 5-30 years, DU causes genetic mutation, **malformations and infertility**. The fact that most of DU, in addition to the Province of Kosovo and Metohija was dropped in the area of Preševo and Bujanovac, with a large Albanian population, indicates that the goal might be, in addition to destroying the Serbs, also an attempt to systematically destroy the coming generations of the Albanian population, whose birth rate is among the highest in the world: according to the data from 1994, growth rate in Serbia is minus 3 ‰, in Vojvodina, minus 0.3 ‰, in central Serbia, and even plus 17.2 ‰ in the Province of Kosovo and Metohija (half the figure in Albania).

8. The US has tried to justify the use of weapons with DU ammunition owing allegedly to their greater effectiveness in anti-tank warfare. The fact that 30,000-50,000 DU missiles were dropped in the Province of Kosovo and Metohija, and only a dozen Yugoslav Army tanks were destroyed, raises the issue of the true goals in using such quantities of DU ammunition in densely populated areas. The most important reason is that DU is made from radioactive waste, which is very expensive to store and safeguard. The US thus disposes of large quantities of hazardous waste by spilling it over the territories of other countries. Uncontrolled disposal of this **radioactive waste deliberately causes lasting and dangerous contamination of Europe**.

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9 Health and Environmental Consequences of DU in the US Army - Technical Report, US Army Environmental Policy Institute - AEPI

10 US Army Armament Research Development and Engineering Center, 8 March 1991

11 US Department of Health/Human service - ATSDR, 1999

12 US Army Chemical School, Development of DU Training Support Packages, page B-5, October 1995; US Armed Forces Radiobiologoy Research Institute-AFRRI, Health Effects of DU, Project Briefing, July 1999

13 John Miller, "Depleted uranium: radioactive residue in the desert", printed in "Downtown", October 1991

The dispersion of DU particles cannot be controlled or prevented and may spill over to neighboring states and regions. When DU missile burns, or explodes, DU aerosol, a **fine, breathable, radioactive dust is released that can travel at least 40 km**, while some scientists consider that depending on weather conditions, "the fallout range of DU aerosol dust is virtually unlimited".[14] According to research in Kuwait, DU aerosol remained in the air for at least two years, and travelled to noncombatant countries, like Saudi Arabia.[15] During NATO bombing of Yugoslavia "scientists in Greece detected radiation levels of 25 per cent above normal, whenever the wind blew from the direction of Kosovo. Bulgarian scientists reported levels eight times higher than usual within Bulgaria itself".[16]

On the basis of chemical activity of uranium water-soluble oxides that can be transported through surface and underground waters, the scientists from US Los Alamos National Laboratory indicate the movement of DU through soil, water courses and the root systems of plants,[17] causing contamination of plant roots and fruits, animal milk and meat. In view of the fact that soluble DU aerosol oxide dust may contaminate in time underground water and sources of drinking water (underground water contamination in Minnesota and New Mexico, US, was confirmed)[18], as well as the fact that the water basin from the Province of Kosovo and Metohija empties into the Adriatic and the Black Sea, the effects of the contamination may be expected in the neighboring countries as well.

III

Large amount of particles of DU oxide aerosol of respirable size, as dust cloud, with devastating effects, are transported by wind turning large territories into a **radioactive desert**. DU dust from the soil can be stirred up and resuspended by the wind or the movement of people and vehicles.

Some 10-15 tons of DU have been scattered throughout the Province of Kosovo and Metohija. In addition to the local population, international civilian and security presences, staff of humanitarian and non-governmental organizations in general deployed in the Province of Kosovo and Metohija, are also exposed to DU **dust**, inhaled or ingested through food and water. Among them, as well as among US veterans from the Gulf war, **"inexplicable illness"** began showing up. The fact is that the US contaminated the territory, and that members from other countries are deployed in the most affected areas.

9. Armies and Governments of NATO countries are aware of the dangers arising from DU. Some Governments deliberately expose their soldiers and police officers in the Province of Kosovo and Metohija to DU, while others undertake certain measures:

- The Dutch Government gives to its troops protective clothing, afterwards stored in depots for dangerously contaminated materials, while on **30 June 2000, the Netherlands withdrew its soldiers** from the Province of Kosovo and Metohija.

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14 Leonard Dietz, nuclear physicist from Knolls Atomic Laboratory, "Contamination of Persian Gulf War Veterans and Others by DU", 20 June 1996

15 Catherine Euler, Ph.D. International Peace Bureau / Campaign Against Depleted Uranium, Written Report- DU Weapons, UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 51st session, August 1999

16 Catherine Euler, Ph.D. CADU- Campaign Against Depleted Uranium, Oral Statement, DU Munitions: The use of Radiological Weapons as a Violation of Human Rights, UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 51st session, August 1999, Annex 3

17 Ibid. Annex 3

18 John Miller, "Depleted Uranium: radioactive residue in the desert", printed in "Downtown", October 1991

- Italian and German soldiers use **imported food and water** (however, no one can escape the effects of breathing in the air).

- **UN humanitarian organizations do not send pregnant women** to the Province of Kosovo and Metohija, while other aid workers have been offered the option of refusing duty stations in Yugoslavia, but if they do accept such a posting, a note will be put in their personnel files, in order to facilitate, if necessary, the workers' later claims for compensation, in the event of negative effects upon their health.[19]

- Environment Minister of Finland Satu Hassi in a letter to his EU colleagues appeals to them to take action to **forbid the use of DU "as uranium dust** in the respiratory tract will expose both soldiers and civilians to strong radiation and permanently contaminate the areas where it is used".[20]

- In the Guidance provided to US Logistics Assistance Representative in Saudi Arabia, just before the Gulf War, the protective equipment was made requisite for contact with DU contamination, including **mask with filter elements** M13A2, in addition to protective coveralls, gloves, rubberized boots and head covers.[21]

10. **British National Radiological Protection Board**, on 5 July 1999, issued an advisory to British citizens travelling to the Province of Kosovo and Metohija:" The risk depends on the chemical form of the contamination. If the contamination is soluble, then DU can be absorbed into the body following inhalation or ingestion. In this case, the kidney is organ most likely to be affected by the heavy metal chemical toxic effect of DU. If the areas are contaminated by insoluble uranium oxide, then any hazard would arise from disturbing the contamination and **inhaling the dust**. The insoluble dust could be deposited in the lungs and over a very long period could be contributory **cause of lung cancer**".[22]

However, with British troops today present in the Province, the British Government is **concealing the information**. So, when learning that at the end of May 2000, UN personnel in Pristina was given information warning that "Toxicity is caused when DU is inhaled or ingested, the particles may enter the water system and be transported by the wind all over Kosovo, and that it is impossible to state accurately every location where DU was used", Mrs. Alice Mahon, on 5 June 2000, in the British Parliament, pursued the issue of "What warnings have been given to the civilian population and to the British troops serving there". Mr. Spelar answered "I have had no indication of any of that. The argument about DU seems to have been greatly exaggerated".[23]

Also, British officials stationed in the Province are hushing up the facts and knowingly expose their soldiers to risks by saying that "DU poses no risk since small quantities are involved - less than in Japanese watches". That is a dangerous manipulation with the health of those who are staying in the Province, and the public as well.

11. The use of DU weapons represents a grave **breach of the basic principles of international humanitarian law** because they cause unnecessary suffering and excessive injury, beyond the point used for military purposes. The use of this type of ammunition is absolutely inhuman, both in terms of immediate effects and the contamination that cannot be limited in time and territory, which represents a crime against

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19 Written statement submitted by Centre Europe Tiers-Monde, ECOSOC, UN Commission on Human Rights, 56th session, E/CN.4/2000/NGO/136, 9 March 2000

20 Annex 4

21 OSAGWI, p.74, US Department of Defense, 31 July 1998

22 NGWRC, Military Toxics Project, D. Fahey,"A Fear of Falling", page 18, 4 August 1999, Annex 5

23 Parliamentary Debates, Oral Answers, 5 June 2000, "Sunday Herald" 4 June 2000, Annex 6

humanity. For its inherent cruelty and immeasurable lethal effects threatening the current and future generations, in the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, DU weapons rank among the **weapons of mass or indiscriminate destruction**.[24] These are precisely the weapons and uses prohibited by international law for more than a century including the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols of 1997.[25]

Because of the known mutagenic effect of DU, it is mathematically estimated (taking an average for some Gulf War veterans) that in the regions affected by DU ammunitions **3,000-21,000 additional fatal cancers could be expected** per 100,000 people.[26] At the Conference on DU and cancers, held in London on 30 July 1999, the scientists confirmed that DU shells can cause serious illness, including cancer. Roger Coghill, an experimental biologist who runs a research centre in Gwent, Wales, said on that occasion that "smoke and dust from the impact of the DU rounds could carry radioactive particles hundreds of yards into the air and several hundred miles downwind", and accused the Ministry of Defense of brushing the "biological truth" under the carpet (claiming that the level of radiation from DU weapons was relatively harmless, did not travel any significant distance and lasted only a short time). Mr. R.Coghil emphasized that the radioactivity from one particle of DU material released into the atmosphere was equivalent to 800 X-rays, and expressed an opinion that there will be **10,000 extra deaths** in the Province of Kosovo and Metohija and "called for radiation tests to be carried out in Serbia to test potential danger to the civilian population and peace-keeping forces".[27]

The Governments which have used DU weapons, without adequately discussing the potential health effects of inhaling DU particles, tried to conceal the effects of DU comparing it to **natural uranium**. In doing so, they deliberately overlook the fact that the used DU raises the activity of uranium in the soil in place of impact up to one million times.[28] So, the US Department of Defense, has minimized the harm which DU weapons can cause, discussing only the external effects of the radiation, not its effect within the body, and suggesting that we all take in natural uranium in food and water every day. However, we ingest natural uranium in such small quantities that the body is able to excrete again quickly without much harm done. Natural uranium is present approximately one part per million parts of soil and is never present in the 100% concentrations present in DU. DU in concentrated form is much more radioactive even from natural uranium ores (damage to the health and lives of the miners working in mining of natural uranium ores, is well known). Thus, the public statements of the US Department of Defense are a **deliberate attempt to confuse the public, the media, the servicemen and the world a large about the real danger of ingesting, or especially inhaled DU particulate**.[29]

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24 UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Resolutions 1996/16 and 1997/36

25 CADU ,August 1999, "The Use of DU and its effects on Human Rights in Iraq"

26 Catherine Euler, Ph.D. CADU, Oral Statement, UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 51st session, August 1999, Annex 3

27 Richard Norton-Taylor, Uranium shells warning for Kosovo alternative maybe : Ministry of Defense accused of hiding truth, The Observer, 31 July 1999, Annex 7

28 According to the information of UNSCEAR, UN organ following the effects of radiation, natural count of uranium in the soil is 5 do 125 Bq/kg of soil while one missile of 300 g on impact has an activity of around 10 MBq/kg, multiplying the uranium activity around one million times.

29 Catherine Euler, Ph.D. International Peace Bureau / Campaign Against Depleted Uranium, Written Report- DU Weapons, UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 51st session, August 1999.

12. US Army reports express more concern about public outcry protest and future restriction on the use of DU weapons then with contaminating foreign lands and poisoning civilians.[30] The Pentagon was aware that concerns over the health effects and environmental impact of DU, could make the weapon "politically unacceptable" and force military to stop using DU weapon. One report completed by the Army's AMCCOM (radiological) task group noted that long term effects of low doses of DU have been implicated in **cancer**, and therefore went on to recommend that the Army engage in "public relations efforts" to prevent a possible "adverse international reaction".[31]

The Pentagon and US defense industry officials, as well as the media, collaborate in cover up of DU. "The relationship between corporations, the Pentagon and the news media comprises a powerful trinity, with the Pentagon's military policies advancing the corporations financial interests and the media's corporate owners defining editorial policy".[32]

Dr Asaf Durakovic, the former head of nuclear medicine for the US Veterans Administration hospital in Wilmington, Delaware, who threatened Gulf War veterans for kidney problems and other disorder that are consistent with uranium poising, calls the Pentagon's dismissal of the effects of DU a "political decision",[33] and accuses the US Veterans Administration of engaging in a **"conspiracy of silence"** to avoid being held liable for veterans who develop cancer in the future.[34]

The US National Gulf War Resources Center- NGWRC has enganged in studying so-called **"Gulf War Syndrome"**, the symptoms of which include damage to organs, genetic manifestations, chronic fatigue, loss of endurance, frequent infections, sore throat, coughing, skin rashes, night sweats, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, headaches, memory loss, confusion, vision problems, muscle spasms and cramps, joint pain and loss of mobility, aching muscles, swollen glands, dental problems and malformations of newborns.

According to the NGWRC estimations, 50-80.000 US Gulf War veterans are concerned and 39.000 have been dismissed from active service. Some 2,400 to 5.000 have died up to now. In March 1994, reports on the health condition of some 251 families of veterans of the Gulf War living in the US state of Mississippi were published in the USA. **67% of the children** of these families were born with congenital deformities: **their eyes, ears or fingers are missing** or they are suffering from severe blood diseases and respiratory problems.[35]

I V

13. US air force used DU missiles in different parts of the world. The US Government continues even after the bombing of Yugoslavia the practice "Don't look, Don't find", **withholds information and tried to impede investigations of DU hazards to avoid moral and financial responsibilities** - exorbitant costs of health care for veterans and civilians exposed to DU dust and debris as well as cleaning up of terrain and disposing of DU contamination. "Cleaning up of the radioactive mess would cost billions, even if it were feasible".[36]

Under US pressure some international organizations tend to minimize the effects of DU and conceal

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30 Dan Fahey, "DU Weapons:Lessons from the 1991 Gulf War"

31 Bill Mesler "Pentagon Poison: The Great Radioactive Ammo Cover -Up", 26 May 1997

32 "Metal of Dishonor-Depleted Uranium", page 61, International Action Center,New York,1997

33 Ben Geman, Boston Fenix, April 8-15, 1999, DU:Side Effects of a New Weapons Tehnology, Bonner Bundnis gegen den NATO-Krieg, PDS, Bonn, FR Germany

34 Bill Mesler "Pentagon Poison: The Great Radioactive Ammo Cover -Up", 26 May 1997

35 "Metal of Dishonor-Depleted Uranium", page169, International Action Center,New York,1997

36 Leonard Dietz, "Contamination of Persian Gulf War Veterans and Others by DU", 20 June 1996

serious consequences caused by the use of DU, while some give up preparing a report warning of DU or withraw reports and published new versions deliberately diminishing the scope of effects of DU. According to Dan Fahey, a former US Navy officer "The Pentagon has refused to comply with 1993 congressional mandate to study the health effects of inhaled and ingested DU dust. In 1999 the Pentagon obstructed a United Nations investigation of the use of DU in Kosovo. The Pentagon is likely to continue impeding investigations of DU hazards".[37]

Nine US congressmen (supporting the rights of US veterans, victims of DU used by the US in the Gulf War) sent, on 8 June 2000, a letter to the President of the USA expressing concerns over the reports that the US Governments has **blocked an investigation by the World Health Organization's experts** into the effects of DU on human health.[38]

French veterans from the Gulf War of 1991, experiencing health problems caused by contacts with DU weapons, established an Association of the victims of the Gulf war "Avigolf". On that occasion, French Defense Minister Alain Richart, also denied the dangers of DU while Professor Pierre Rousset from the Nuclear Institute for Physics in Orsey, confirms the real danger from inhaling DU which may cause lung or kidney cancer[39]. On return from the Gulf War in 1991, French serviceman Gerard Jourdrein suffering from "Gulf War Syndrome", on 15 August 2000 died of advanced cancer. Family of Mr. Jourdrein demand the army to assume responsibility and his wife states that **"the soldiers coming from Yugoslavia were also sick"**, and that she has been exposed to "strong pressures by the Army".[40]

14. In the report of Amnesty International on war rights violations by NATO during the operations in Yugoslavia, referring to the studies indicating "the DU dust poses a significant health risk, if inhaled or ingested," the Amnesty International expresses concern about indiscriminate nature of DU ammunitions and recommended NATO and its member states "to investigate and cooperate fully with independent investigations of the possible long-term health and environment risk posed by DU weapons".[41]

DU particles are invisible, tasteless and odorless and for the establishment of DU radiation, a special equipment and experts are necessary. It is therefore necessary for the Yugoslav experts from the Institute for Nuclear Science "Vinca", in cooperation with independent experts and those from international organizations who are not under the influence of the US (Iraq, India, Russia, China), to examine the terrain and mark contaminated sites. In view of the fact that weather and natural laws contribute to dissemination of uranium in the field, it is necessary that international organizations for the protection of human rights, health, environment, food, etc. undertake urgent action in order to protect the population and ensure financial resources to decontaminate the terrain, wherever possible.

Catherine Euler, Ph.D. who has been studying the effects of DU for years, concluded that "Depleted Uranium Munitions **represent risking long-terms damage to the human genome and thus to humanity** and that is why it is an issue which the General Assembly UN, the Conference on Disarmament, the UNHCR, the ILO, WHO, UNEP, the Red Cross, and the Commission on Human Rights need to face very courageously, for the sake of all human beings who will ever exist after us".[42]

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37 Dan Fahey, "The Use of DU in Ammunition", page 3, 15 December 1999, Military Toxics Project, Washington

38 Congressman Tony P.Hall, "Hall Joins Veterans Advocates in Pressing for Study of Depleted Uranium in Iraq", Annex 8

39 L'Expresse No.2555, 22-28 June 2000.

40 L'Humanite, 17 August 2000

41 Amnesty International, NATO - FR Yugoslavia "Collateral Damage" or Unlawful Killings?, pages 17 and 24 June 2000

42 Catherine Euler, Ph.D. Campaign Against Depleted Uranium -CADU. Manchester, UK. Written Report-DU Weapons, UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 51st session, August 1999

Annex 1*

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE NON GOUVERNEMENTALE
OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES A GENEVE
COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
ECONOMIC and SOCIAL COUNCIL
E/CN. 4/1992/18 Corr. 1 du 21 Janvier 1992
E/CN. 4/1992/18 Corr. du 30 Décembre 1991
CONVENTIONS INTERNATIONALES DE GENEVE 1949-1977
(CF. KISS Répertoire Français du Droit International Public T.IV N° 590)
ASSOCIATION POUR LA SAUVEGARDE DES FAMILLES ET ENFANTS DE DISPARUS
Loi 1901 Association déclarée au J.O. du 9 Mai 1967
SECRETARIAT GENERAL INTERNATIONAL : 30/32 rue de Vincennes 33000 BORDEAUX ☎ : 56.96.78.43
Henri TROUPEL Président International A.S.F.E.D. O.I.N.G.
Délégué Elu au CONSEIL SUPERIEUR DES FRANCAIS DE L'ETRANGER
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères Français
Président : Michel FONTANIE 18 rue Prosper Mérimée 67100 STRASBOURG
☎ 03.88.79.40.36 Fax : 03.88.40.04.51

Communauté St Georges
4 rue Falkenhauer
67100 STRASBOURG

Strasbourg, le 27 mai 1999

Messieurs,

Nous vous prions de trouver ci-dessous l'information communiquée par le Capitaine Marc Louis LECLAIR

Déclaration faite par le Général JOFFRET, commandant l'aviation française de l'Alliance, sur France Info et France International : "L'aviation a reçu l'ordre de détruire la vie en Serbie".

Ceci n'est pas un fait de guerre, mais un crime contre l'humanité.

Prière d'informer votre ambassade et de déposer une plainte internationale auprès de la Cour Internationale de La Haye.

Nous vous prions d'agréer, Messieurs, nos salutations distinguées.

Michel FONTANIE
Président ASFED FRANCE

* The annexes are being issued in the languages of submission only.

Annex 2

ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL
SECRETARY GENERAL

BOULEVARD LEOPOLD III
B-1110 BRUXELLES

The Rt. Hon.
Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, PC

SG(2000)0108

07 February 2000

Dear Kofi,

In further reply to your letter of 14 October 1999, I would like to provide you with the following information, compiled by NATO's Military Authorities and reviewed by the North Atlantic Council, on the use of depleted uranium (DU) during Operation Allied Force.

I can confirm that DU was used during the Kosovo conflict.

DU rounds were used whenever the A-10 engaged armour during Operation Allied Force. Therefore, it was used throughout Kosovo during approximately 100 missions. The GAU-8/A API round is designated PGU-13/B and uses a streamlined projectile housing a sub-calibre kinetic energy penetrator machined from DU, a non-critical by-product of the uranium refining process. The A-10s used DU rounds as part of their standard load. A total of approximately 31,000 rounds of DU ammunition was used in operation Allied Force.

The major focus of these operations was in an area west of the Pec-Dakovica-Prizren highway, in the area surrounding Klina, in the area around Prizren and in an area to the north of a line joining Suva Reka and Urosevac. However, many missions using DU also took place outside of these areas. At this moment it is impossible to state accurately every location where DU ammunition was used. Attached is a map providing the best available information as to the location of DU ammunition use.

I hope that this information will help the UNEP/UNCHS (Habitat) Balkans Task Force in its further work. I am looking forward to continued excellent cooperation between our two organisations.

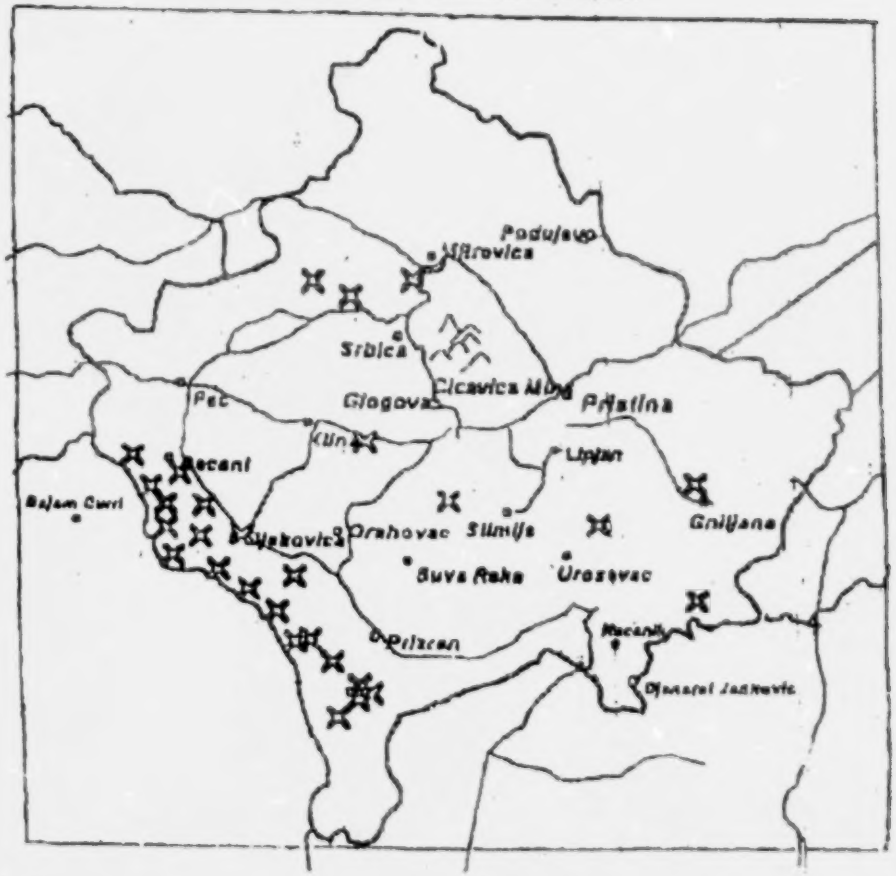
Sincerely,

George

His Excellency
Mr Kofi A. Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters
United Nations Plaza 2
New York 10017
USA

Use of Depleted Uranium Ammunition

- Areas of concentration marked on the attached map indicate a position where one or more aircraft attacked
- Markings are not precise, the overall area covered by the X on the map should give the required positional deviation
- Source of data for areas depleted was from pilot debriefs after engaging in FLEX targeting process during Operation Allied Force



X Areas where GAU-8 30MM Cannon Used

A/55/398
S/2000/883

Annex 3

Depleted Uranium Munitions: The Use of Radiological Weapons as a Violation of Human Rights

Joint Intervention by
the International Peace Bureau and International Educational Development

Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
Fifty-first Session

Agenda Item 12:
Review of further developments
in fields with which the Sub-Commission has been concerned
Sub-item (d) (i) Adverse consequences of the
transfer of arms and illicit trafficking in arms on the enjoyment of human rights
(Scheduled to be discussed Monday, 23 August 1999)

Prepared by:
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The Campaign Against Depleted Uranium would also like to thank the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Geneva, for their invaluable support in producing this statement.

August 1999

Oral Statement

Thank you Mr. Chairman. We are pleased to present further information to the Sub-Commission on the use of depleted uranium weapons and thank the Sub-Commission for its work so far. We assure you that many NGOs around the world await further action on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, these radioactive weapons have already been used in Kuwait, Iraq, Kosovo and Serbia even though they are illegal under existing humanitarian law. There are four main tests which determine whether or not the use of weapons is illegal: (1) whether or not they stay within the territorial range of the conflict; (2) whether or not they damage the environment; (3) whether or not the effects of the weapons end when the conflict ends (or the temporal range of the weapons); and (4) whether or not they are inhumane, that is, continue to cause physical harm beyond the point used for military purposes. As the Sub-Commission is aware, Depleted Uranium Munitions fail all four tests.

1. Territorial Range

The radioactive aerosol produced by these weapons can travel at least 40 km. During the Gulf War some radioactive particles migrated to Saudi Arabia, a non-combatant country. During the recent Balkans War, scientists in Greece detected radiation levels 25% above normal whenever the wind blew from the direction of Kosovo. Bulgarian scientists reported levels eight times higher than usual within Bulgaria itself, also a non-combatant country.

2. DU Damages the Environment

Weapons tests using approximately 40,000-50,000 kg. of depleted uranium were conducted in the US state of New Mexico between 1955-1970. Los Alamos National Laboratory scientific reports on the ecological effects indicate the movement of depleted uranium through soils, water courses and the root systems of plants. In addition, depleted uranium was detected in the bones, hides and internal organs of mammals. A former US army expert on depleted uranium advises against planting foods in contaminated soils, and to avoid drinking contaminated water. One epidemiologist, a member of the UNEP Global 500, has suggested that people in affected areas only drink distilled water. The characteristic black dust near depleted uranium impact sites must be washed off food products; people involved in clean-up operations must wear respiratory protection, must cover their skin and hair, and must wash their hands frequently. What this means, Mr. Chairman, is that the Kosovar refugees are being sent back to a possibly radioactive environment. However, returnees do not have a map of the areas where depleted uranium was used, although such a map was published by the US Department of Defence for southern Iraq. The production of a similar map for Kosovo and Serbia would greatly assist efforts to evaluate the environmental impact of the war.

3. Temporal Range

Depleted Uranium has a half-life of 4.5 billion years, or the age of the planet itself. This means that it will go releasing ionising radiation into the environment, essentially forever. After the Gulf War DU remained suspended in the air above Kuwait City for two years. Soil particles can be re-suspended whenever the ground is disturbed, for example by wind, ploughing or reconstruction.

The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) states that inside the body it takes 500 days for one chemical form of uranium to be excreted. However, there is evidence that the ceramic form of uranium dioxide, made during weapons explosions or fires, could stay in the body as long as 20 years. Depleted uranium was detected nine years after the end of the war in the urine of US, UK and Gulf War veterans and in Iraqi civilians.

4. Depleted Uranium Munitions Are Inhumane

Inhalation results in deposit of radioactive particles in the lungs and circulation of these particles via the bloodstream to various organs. DU and its decay products are alpha, beta and gamma emitters and can break the DNA or RNA in nearby cells. Because of the known mutagenic effect of depleted uranium, it is mathematically estimated that if there were a population of 100,000 people, each excreting an average of 3 micrograms of DU per day (the average for some Gulf War veterans), then 3,000-21,000 additional fatal cancers could be expected.

However, fatal cancers are only one expected health effect. Internal DU exposure can cause a weakened immune system response. It can damage the digestive tract, cause renal and neurological damage, and cause genetic malformations. One Iraqi doctor has reported a 7-10 per cent increase in birth abnormalities in southern Iraq. Health problems may continue for as long as the victim lives and some effects may not become apparent until several years after exposure. One of the shorter-lived decay products of uranium, thorium, is known to concentrate in breast tissue and may therefore be present in lactating mothers. Women's breast and uterine tissue is especially vulnerable to ionising radiation and women experience 1.5 times more cancers than men, given equal exposures. Thus the use of depleted uranium weapons may also be seen as a particular violation of women's human rights. Radiation damage to human DNA creates the nightmare of damage to the human genome, which is the map or seed for all future human generations, for as long as humanity exists.

Appeal

Mr. Chairman, the use of these weapons represents a grave breach of humanitarian law. Perhaps 14-17 countries now have these weapons in their arsenals,[1] and this trafficking is expected to increase. It is urgent that the Sub-Commission continues to play a major role in bringing worldwide attention to these violations.

[1] The list of countries currently holding depleted uranium munitions includes the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, Turkey, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Pakistan, Thailand and Taiwan.

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMI
FINLAND

Annex 4

Military use of depleted uranium and ensuing environmental hazards

Dear Colleague,

I am approaching you on a subject where I think the EU should make an initiative: military use of depleted uranium (DU) should be forbidden.

I attach to this letter some material illustrating my point, which I received last November from Malcolm Hooper, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of Medicinal Chemistry (University of Sunder-land, UK). Mr. Hooper is Chief Scientific Adviser to the Gulf Veterans' Association in the UK.

Depleted uranium is a waste from the nuclear industry. In the industry itself, the handling of depleted uranium is strictly regulated and controlled, and waste is kept in guarded areas. But in military use, in combat situations and test shooting, the very same waste is spread into the environment, where the spread follows a haphazard pattern.

The reason for military use of depleted uranium is the high density and flammability of the substance. These increase penetration. When hitting a target the shell will explode and generate a dust of very fine particles, which may be transported dozens of kilometers. Exposure to such dust will result in some particles remaining in the organism for many years, exuding radioactive radiation. Uranium is a heavy metal and, as such, toxic. Uranium dust on the ground will contaminate the area forever because of the permanence of uranium (half-life 4.5 milliard years).

In the Persian Gulf War, approximately 380-800 tonnes of depleted uranium was spread in the war arena. Now, eight years later, there is evidence of exposure of both allied and Iraqi troops and civilians. It is difficult to assess the extent of exposure, but in some cases it may be proven serious. In some war veterans, low levels of uranium/DU has been found in their urine and sperm even 7 years after the war.

The troops had not been trained to protect themselves against exposure to depleted uranium. Nearly all troops and other personnel were ignorant of these weapons and the threats they cause, which increased exposure.

Apparently, depleted uranium has also been used in Kosovo. However, the UNEP expert group headed by Pekka Haavisto, which studies the environmental consequences of the war, has not been informed of where and how much NATO used depleted uranium. Nevertheless it is known that DU weapons are part of the equipment of the A-10 Warthog planes which were used in the aerial attacks, and that most Tomahawk cruise missiles, of which over 1500 were fired into Serbia (including Kosovo), contain approximately 3 kg of DU each.

Munitions containing DU are nowadays part of the armament of many countries.

I am of the opinion that the use of DU should be banned, as uranium dust in the respiratory tract will expose both soldiers and civilians to strong radioactive radiation, and because it will permanently contaminate the areas where it is used with toxic heavy metal.

I therefore appeal both to the EU Commission and to my fellow ministers of the environment to take action to forbid the use of depleted uranium.

With kind regards,

Satu Hassi
Minister of the Environment

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+358 9 1991 9544
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Annex 5

5. The person at the "AMC Surgeon General's Office" (possibly the Army Surgeon General's Office) who told the LAR to "stop stirring things up."

If some of these individuals acted negligently to withhold or ignore DU warnings, they should be held accountable. Important lessons may be learned from the incidents described above which could help prevent or minimize DU exposures to American fighting forces in the future.

British Government Issues DU Advisory

On July 5, 1999, the United Kingdom National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) issued an advisory to British citizens traveling to Kosovo. This advisory can be found at: http://www.nrpb.org.uk/D-uran.htm.

Depleted Uranium

"Depleted uranium (DU) is used in armour piercing ammunition because of its very high density. It has been used in two recent military campaigns, the Gulf War and Kosovo. The amount of radioactivity in DU is low, and is less than in naturally occurring uranium to which we are all exposed in, for example, drinking water. Concerns have been raised that DU contamination might present a health risk to both military personnel and civilian populations. There are two types of potential hazard posed by the use of DU: a chemical toxicity hazard and a radiation hazard. There are a number of ways in which either UK troops or civilians could be exposed to DU during or after these conflicts. The most likely risk would be if people enter areas that have been damaged and contaminated by DU ammunition. The risk depends on the chemical form of this contamination. If the contamination is soluble then DU could be absorbed in to the body following inhalation or ingestion. In this case the kidney is the organ most likely to be affected by the heavy metal chemical toxic effect of DU. If the areas are contaminated by insoluble uranium oxides, then any hazard would arise from disturbing the contamination and inhaling the dust. The insoluble dust could be deposited in the lungs and over a very long period could be a contributory cause of lung cancer. In both cases very large exposures would be required to cause a significant increase in the risk of either kidney damage or lung cancer.

"People visiting or working in Kosovo, for example press and relief agencies, should seek advice from appropriate authorities on the disposition of damaged vehicles or areas of DU contamination and avoid disturbing these areas. If access to potentially contaminated areas is deemed essential, then advice should be sought from the Ministry of Defence or the Foreign Office on any protective measures required.

"Information on DU can be obtained from the page on the Ministry of Defence web site concerning the illnesses of Gulf War veterans."

This advisory shows the British government is concerned that its citizens might be exposed to depleted uranium contamination in Kosovo. The important message in this advisory should be widely distributed within Kosovo: stay away from areas potentially contaminated with DU.

Annex 6

(Parliamentary debates)

Mrs. Alice Mahon (Halifax): Is the Minister aware that German soldiers in Kosovo have been told not to eat local produce after fears that deposits of uranium from NATO's use of depleted uranium might have contaminated the soil. Similarly, there have been reports that the United Nations has warned its officials that the water supply could be contaminated. What warnings have been given to the civilian population and to British troops serving there?

Mr. Spellar: I have had no indication of any of that. The problems of water supplies are more to do with traditional pollution, which is why our forces have substantial supplies of bottled water. The argument about depleted uranium seems to have been greatly exaggerated.

SUNDAY HERALD, Page 4 June 4. 2000

UN troops in Nato uranium food scare

By Fellicity Arbuthnot

GERMAN soldiers serving as United Nations peacekeepers in Kosovo have been told not to eat local produce after fears that deposits of radioactive uranium from Nato air strikes have contaminated the countryside.

The UN has warned its officials in Kosovo that the water supply may be contaminated.

Last year Dutch soldiers in Prizren were ordered to hand in all clothes and equipment, which were shipped back to the Netherlands in sealed bags.

Depleted uranium, used in military shells, has been linked to Gulf war syndrome and the spiralling levels of cancer and birth deformities in Iraq.

The use of depleted uranium in shells has twice been condemned as a weapon of mass destruction by the UN commission of human rights.

A UN environmental mission last year cited serious contamination, but the report was allegedly suppressed.

The orders to German soldiers come a week after a seven-page document warning of the dangers of depleted uranium was put into the mail boxes of all personnel working from the UN building in Pristina.

More than 31,000 missiles were fired into the former Yugoslavia, Nato estimated say.

Scientists estimate that the amount of uranium in the soil in the worst affected areas is up to 20 times the naturally occuring amount. Yugoslavia has said an urgent clean up is needed.

One sick Edinburgh-based Gulf war veteran, who served for 13 years with the 1st Battalion of the Royal Scots, said:

"The unit is ravaged by Gulf war illnesses. An entire platoon - 36 men - are unwell and four friends who worked from the same vehicle have cancer."

Linlithgow MP Tam Dalyell said he would pursue the issue in Parliament this week.

Annex 7

Breaking news | The Observer | Columnists

Uranium shells warning for Kosovo alternative maybe: MoD accused of hiding truth

Nato bombing may hit future generations, scientists tell conference

Interactive guides, useful links latest news and analysis on Kosovo

Richard Norton-Taylor
Saturday July 31, 1999

Depleted uranium shells can cause birth defects and serious illness, including cancer, scientists at a conference on depleted uranium and cancers in Iraq claimed yesterday, warning that radioactivity from DU ammunition could cause health problems in Kosovo.

"One single particle of depleted uranium lodged in the lymph node can devastate the entire immune system," Roger Coghill, an experimental biologist, told the conference.

"We know that some 1m DU bullets were fired [during the Gulf war] and many still lie in the Gulf desert, causing clearly serious cancers and birth defects. The connection between the two is biologically extremely plausible," he said.

Mr Coghill, a biologist who runs a research centre in Gwent, Wales, said smoke and dust from the impact of the rounds could carry radioactive particles hundreds of yards into the air and several hundred miles downwind.

The use of DU shells in Kosovo, fired mainly from US A-10 "tank-busting" aircraft, was endangering the health of returning refugees, peacekeepers, aid workers and the people of neighbouring countries, he said.

"We think there will be be 10,000 extra deaths in Kosovo," Mr Coghill said, basing the figure on extrapolations from US statements about the use of DU weapons during the war.

The ministry of defence said in statements that the level of radiation from DU weapons was relatively harmless as it was confined to the soil, did not travel any significant distance and lasted only a short time.

But Mr Coghill accused the MoD of brushing the "biological truth" under the carpet. The radioactivity from one particle of DU material released into the atmosphere was equivalent to 800 X-rays, he said.

Siegwart-Horst Gunther, a German epidemiologist and president of Yellow Cross International, set up to protect children's health, said his studies in Iraq since 1991 had led him to believe that contact with DU weapon debris was linked to sharp increases in infectious diseases and immune deficiencies, Aids-like syndromes, kidney disorders and congenital deformities.

He said that when he had brought back a used DU bullet case, the size of a cigar, from the southern Iraq battlefield area, he was arrested in Germany and the material was impounded and stored in a specially shielded depository.

But critics of the claimed link between the use of DU weapons and increase in cancer and genetic abnormalities say the problems could, instead, be connected with the use of chemical weapons used against the Kurds and others in Iraq during the 1980s.

Richard Guthrie of Sussex university's science policy research unit told the conference in London yesterday that the case was "not cut and dried" and there needed to be more research - something Dr Coghill conceded.

Mona Kammas, a member of Iraq's Committee of Pollution Impact by Aggressive Bombing, claimed an increase in birth defects in parts of Iraq had been caused by depleted uranium, as she displayed photographs of deformed babies.

"When we studied the nearest to the depleted uranium sources, the more abnormalities we got," she said.

Thousands of Iraqi military personnel and civilians were affected by the after-effects of the shells, Dr Kammas alleged.

Declassified US documents show that US forces fired about 944,000 rounds of DU ammunition in Iraq and Kuwait during the 1991 Gulf war. Britain says it fired less than 100 rounds.

Mr Coghill called for radiation tests to be carried out in Serbia to test potential danger to the civilian population and peacekeeping forces.

Annex 8

Congressman Tony P. Hall

U.S. House of Representatives
1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 9, 2000

Hall Joins Veterans' Advocates in Pressing for Study of Depleted Uranim in Iraq

Put U.S. veterans and innocent Iraqis' health ahead of politics, Congressmen urge

WASHINGTON— Rep. Tony P. Hall, D-Ohio, joined Congressional leaders known for their advocacy on behalf of American veterans in calling for an investigation of depleted uranium's effects on human health. In a letter to President Clinton on Thursday, Hall and eight other Members of the U.S. House of Representatives urged him to request a World Health Organization study of depleted uranium in Iraq.

"We are concerned by reports that the United States Government has blocked an investigation by the World Health Organization's experts into the effects of depleted uranium on Iraq's civilians," they wrote. "If these reports are true, we are sacrificing an opportunity to help our own veterans to political concerns; we also may be putting those who serve in the U.S. military now at risk needlessly."

The Congressmen urged President Clinton to involve himself personally. ". . . your leadership is needed to reverse this troubling record," they said. "We urge you to put the health of American veterans and innocent Iraqi civilians ahead of political efforts to isolate Iraq's government. . . . Whatever WHO finds will better inform our country's decisions about protecting American troops and others in the future. Its work should not be delayed."

The full text of the letter follows. Joining Hall in writing were Reps. Lane Evans, D-Illinois; Bob Filner, D-California; Sam Farr, D-California; Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio; Robert A. Underwood, D-Guam; John W. Olver, D-Massachusetts; Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawaii; and Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas.

The text of the letter follows.

June 8, 2000

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, American veterans of the Gulf War are fighting health problems which are not well understood by medical professionals, but which are real and affect their lives in significant ways. There are credible reports that Iraqi civilians too are suffering: cancer rates in Iraq appear to be significantly higher than the worldwide average, although the reason for this has not been determined.

The suspected culprit in both cases is depleted uranium, a toxic and radioactive metal. Yet, nine years after the Gulf War ended, few efforts have been made to examine its effects on human health.

We are concerned by reports that the United States Government has blocked an investigation by the World Health Organization's experts into the effects of depleted uranium on Iraq's civilians. If these reports are true, we are sacrificing an opportunity to help our own veterans to political concerns; we also may be putting those who serve in the U.S. military now at risk needlessly.

The General Accounting Office recently criticized the U.S. Government for mishandling its investigations on the possible effects of DU exposure on our Gulf War veterans. Critics of U.S. humanitarian policy toward Iraq also take issue with our response to this and other problems plaguing Iraqi civilians.

Mr. President, your leadership is needed to reverse this troubling record. We urge you to put the health of American veterans and innocent Iraqi civilians ahead of political efforts to isolate Iraq's government by immediately requesting the WHO to conduct a comprehensive investigation of this matter.

Whatever WHO finds will better inform our country's decisions about protecting American troops and others in the future. Its work should not be delayed.

[signed: Hall, Evans, Filner, Farr, Kucinich, Underwood, Olver, Abercrombie, Reyes]

United Nations A/55/399

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 107 and 123

Advancement of women

Human resources management

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

Report of the Secretary-General*

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* The footnote requested by the General Assembly in resolution 54/248 was not included in the submission.

00-65147 (E) 031000

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Annex

Gender distribution of Professional and higher-level staff in the organizations of the United Nations system (at Headquarters and other established offices) as at 31 December 1998 21

Abbreviations

DDA	Department for Disarmament Affairs
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DM	Department of Management
DM/OCSS	Department of Management/Office of Central Support Services
DM/OHRM	Department of Management/Office of Human Resources Management
DM/OPPBA	Department of Management/Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts
DGAACS	Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services
DPA	Department of Political Affairs
DPI	Department of Public Information
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DPKO/FALD[1]	Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Field Administration and Logistics Division
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
INTERORG	Interorganizational bodies Joint Inspection Unit Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions International Computing Centre Information Systems Coordination Committee
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODCCP	Office of Drug Control and Crime Prevention
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
OLA	Office of Legal Affairs
OSG	Office of the Secretary-General
OSRSGCAC	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
REGCOM	Regional Commissions Liaison Office

[1] All staff with appointments of one year or more assigned to peacekeeping and other special missions.

UNCC	United Nations Compensation Commission
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFIP	United Nations Fund for International Partnerships
UNOG	United Nations Office at Geneva
UNOIP	United Nations Office of the Iraq Programme
UNON	United Nations Office at Nairobi
UNOV	United Nations Office at Vienna
UNMOVIC	United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission

I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted in response to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 54/139 of 17 December 1999, is divided into an introduction and three other sections, containing: an overview of the representation of women in the Secretariat; a review of developments since the submission of the last report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly; and conclusions and strategies for improving the representation of women in the Secretariat in the year ahead.

2. This review of the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat offers a timely opportunity not only to look at the future but also at the past. In the last decade, there have been clear areas of progress. Overall, women comprise approximately 39 per cent of the staff on appointments subject to geographical distribution, as compared to 28 per cent 10 years ago. Major shifts have occurred in the number of women at the P-5 to D-2 levels. There are now four women Assistant Secretaries-General, whereas in 1990 there were none.

3. Looking at the performance over the past year, further gains have been made at the D-1, P-5, P-3, and P-2 levels, whereas at other levels, including the higher decision-making levels, progress has slowed. Major increases in the representation of women overall were made in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, where the percentage of women increased by 10.1 and 4.7 percentage points, respectively.

4. Issues of concern include the slowdown in the rate at which women are represented at the senior and policy-making levels (D-1 and above) and the decrease in the percentage of women appointed and promoted to the P-4 level. It is also of concern that there are no women special representatives or envoys. More work is needed to move the work/family agenda forward.

5. At the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", convened from 5 to 9 June 2000, Member States agreed that, despite growing acceptance of the importance of the full participation of women in decision-making at all levels and in all forums, a gap between de jure and de facto equality had persisted. Notwithstanding substantial improvements of de jure equality between women and men, the actual participation of women at the highest levels of national and international decision-making had not significantly changed since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. As of 15 July 2000, women accounted for only 13.8 per cent of legislators in national parliaments. Of the 189 permanent representatives to the United Nations in New York, only 11 (5.8 per cent) were women.

6. The General Assembly, at the special session in June 2000, agreed upon additional actions and initiatives to be taken by the United Nations system. United Nations system organizations were requested, inter alia, to enhance management accountability mechanisms; to encourage the involvement of women in decision-making at all levels and to achieve gender balance in the appointment of women and men, including as special envoys, special representatives and resident coordinators; and to encourage implementation of measures designed to achieve the goal of gender balance, in particular at the higher levels in their secretariats, including in peacekeeping missions and peace negotiations.

7. In a statement to the General Assembly at the special session, the Administrative Committee on Coordination indicated, inter alia, that further action was required to achieve the gender equality goals set in the Beijing Platform for Action for the staffing and management of United Nations system organizations.[1] Although organizations had implemented affirmative action measures to increase the representation of women and had taken steps to make work environments more gender sensitive and responsive to the requirements of both women and men, further actions, such as initiatives to strengthen managerial competence and accountability for gender equality and the development of policies to promote the recruitment and retention of women were needed. The Executive Heads of the United Nations system organizations pledged to intensify their efforts to meet the gender equality goals set out in the Beijing Platform for Action, including through the development of effective accountability mechanisms to ensure that actions matched policy commitments.

8. During the course of the period under review, the Secretary-General has continued to urge heads of offices to meet the goal of 50/50 gender distribution and to reflect progress towards this goal in the

appraisal of the performance of managers. Since the submission of the last report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has appointed: a woman as the Prosecutor for the international criminal tribunals in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda; the first woman to head a regional commission, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); and a woman to head the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS). Within the Secretariat, in addition to the Deputy Secretary-General, women holding top leadership positions include the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Acting Head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

9. Within the United Nations system, women head the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the World Food Programme (WFP). During the past year, three women have been appointed as assistant directors-general in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and a woman has been selected as the Deputy Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

10. Owing to target setting and annual monitoring of progress by the Commission on the Status of Women and the General Assembly, the rate of progress within the United Nations system, while not remarkable, has been better than in most countries, with the possible exception of the Nordic countries. One organization in the United Nations family, UNFPA, achieved the goal of 50/50 gender distribution in the staffing of Professional and higher-level posts in 1999. In several others, women comprised between 30 and 40 per cent of Professional and higher-level staff. As of 31 December 1998, the proportion of women with appointments of one year or more at Headquarters and other established offices of the United Nations common system was 32.4 per cent, as compared to 29.2 per cent in January 1995.

II. Overview of current status

A. Gender distribution of staff at the Professional and higher levels in the Secretariat[2]

Staff on appointments subject to geographical distribution

11. Table 3 shows that there were 936 women (39.2 per cent) out of a total of 2,389 staff on appointments subject to geographical distribution as of 30 June 2000, compared to 919 women (38.1 per cent) out of a total of 2,410 staff on such appointments as at 30 June 1999. The increase is consistent with the average annual 1 per cent rate at which women's representation has increased over the past 10 years.

12. Although the rate at which women's overall representation has increased has been modest, considerable headway has been made since June 1990 in improving women's representation at the P-5 and D-1 levels. As depicted in table 5 below and in the accompanying graph, the number of women on appointments subject to geographical distribution at the D-1 level increased from 16 in June 1990 to 73 in June 2000. This corresponds to a significant increase in women's representation at this level, from 6.8 per cent in June 1990 to 35.8 per cent in June 2000. During the same time period, the number of women at the P-5 level more than doubled, from 73 (15.8 per cent) to 151 (33.1 per cent).

Staff on appointments of one year or more

13. In the larger population of staff with appointments of one year or more, the number of women increased from 1,542 (35.8 per cent) as at June 1999 to 1,601 (36.5 per cent) as at 30 June 2000, an increase of only 0.7 percentage points. Table 4 shows that the largest percentage increase in the representation of women with appointments of one year or more has been at the P-5 level. The number of women at this level increased from 212 (30 per cent) as at 30 June 1999 to 242 (32.6 per cent) as at 30 June 2000. While the percentage of women at the D-1 level is nearing a critical mass, at 29.3 per cent, the overall increase in the percentage of women at the senior and policy making levels (D-1 and above) has been very slight, rising from 24.4 per cent to 24.7 per cent. The slowdown in the rate of women's representation at

these levels since the submission of the Secretary-General's last report to the General Assembly[3] is cause for concern, in particular as the number of staff appointed and promoted at these levels has increased.

14. The goal of gender balance was finally met at the P-2 level when the percentage of women increased from 48.2 per cent to 50.1 per cent. The largest number of women staff members continues to be at the P-3 level, followed by those at the P-4 level, whereas the highest concentration of men is at the P-4 level, followed by those at the P-3 level. Although the number of women at the P-4 and D-2 levels increased slightly, the percentage of women at these levels has declined since June 1999 owing to the significantly greater increase in the number of men at these levels.

Representation of women in departments and offices of the Secretariat

15. The gender composition of staff with appointments of one year or more by department and office is provided in table 1 below. Since the submission of the last report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, the goal of gender balance has been met in two additional departments and offices with 20 or more personnel: the Department of Public Information and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts. The Department of Management[4] has the highest representation of women (58.6 per cent), followed by the Office of Human Resources Management (54.3 per cent), the Department of Public Information (50.8 per cent) and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts (50.5 per cent). Four more departments have reached the 30 per cent mark for women, while in five others women still account for less than 30 per cent. These are: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA, 26.9 per cent); the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE, 27.7 per cent), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP, 28.5 per cent), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS, 27.9 per cent) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD, 27.9 per cent).

16. Since June 1999, two offices, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, have made significant progress towards the goal of gender balance. At ESCWA, the percentage of women with appointments of one year or more has risen from 29.1 per cent to 39.2 per cent. At the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the percentage of women has risen from 33.3 to 38 per cent.

17. During the period under review, two additional offices have met the goal of gender balance in the staffing of posts at the D-1 level and above: the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC).

18. The following departments and offices have a critical mass of women (30 per cent or more) at the senior and policy-making levels (D-1 and above): the Office of Internal Oversight Services (42.9 per cent), the Department of Public Information (42.1 per cent), the United Nations Office at Vienna (40 per cent), ECLAC (38.5 per cent), the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services (37.5 per cent), the United Nations Office at Geneva (37.5 per cent), the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (33.3 per cent), ECE (33.3 per cent), the Department of Management (33.3 per cent), the Department of Political Affairs (32 per cent), the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts (30 per cent) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (30 per cent).

19. Of the four departments and offices with 20 or more personnel at the D-1 level and above (the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs, UNCTAD and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)), UNEP has the lowest representation of women at those levels (14 per cent), followed by UNCTAD (18.2 per cent).

20. Information on the representation of Member States in the staff of the Secretariat by nationality, grade and gender is provided in the report of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat.

Staff on language posts

21. The gender distribution of staff with special language requirements shows that the percentage of women decreased slightly from 38.1 per cent (322 staff) in June 1999 to 37.9 per cent (318 staff) in June 2000, which coincides with a small decline in the total number of language personnel from 846 to 839 staff. At the P-5 level, however, women's representation

continued to increase, rising from 40.2 per cent to 43.4 per cent (63 women as compared to 82 men).

Staff on project posts

22. As at 30 June 2000, the percentage of women on project posts (200 series staff) had reached a critical mass at 30.4 per cent (242 female staff), compared to 28.2 per cent (214 female staff) as at 30 June 1999. Although the goal of gender balance has been met or exceeded at the L-1 (63 per cent) and L-2 levels (52.2 per cent), the representation of women at the higher levels is significantly lower, with a critical mass of women having been achieved only at the L-3 level (34.8 per cent). Women at the L-4 level account for only 18.4 per cent (23 women) of the 125 staff at that level. The representation of women at the L-5 (17 women out of a total of 177 staff) and L-6 levels (10 women out of a total of 74 staff) is 9.6 per cent and 13.5 per cent, respectively. At the L-7 level, the number and percentage of women (11.1 per cent) remains unchanged since June 1999 (one woman out of a total of nine staff).

B. Appointments and promotions of staff in the Professional and higher categories in the Secretariat

23. Table 6 below and the accompanying graph show the number of women and men appointed during the past two years at the P-1 through the Under-Secretary-General levels, including through the national competitive and language examinations. Table 7 below and the accompanying graph show the number of women and men promoted during the past two years at the P-1 through the Under-Secretary-General levels, including through the competitive examination for promotion to the Professional category of staff members from other categories.

24. Since June 1999, 36 of the 73 staff members (49.3 per cent) recruited through the national competitive examinations and seven of the 20 staff members recruited through the language examinations (35 per cent) were women. During the same period, 11 women (73.3 per cent) and four men were promoted from the General Service to the Professional category through the examinations for promotion from the General Service and related categories to the Professional category (G to P examinations).

Appointments

25. Table 6 shows that in the past two years there has been a notable increase in the percentage of women appointed at the P-3 level: from 31.8 to 44.6 per cent. Although there was a small increase in the number of women appointed at the P-2 level between 1 July 1999 and 30 June 2000, the percentage of women appointed at this level declined significantly from 64.5 per cent to 51.5 per cent, due to a marked increase in the number of men appointed at this level.

Promotions

26. The percentage of women promoted during the period under review was 43.1 per cent compared to 45.5 per cent the previous year. There has, however, been a substantial increase in the number of women promoted to the P-3 level where, as indicated in table 7, the number of women promoted was 56 in the past year compared to 43 in the preceding year. Although there has been an increase over the past year in the representation of women at the P-5 and D-1 levels, the decline in the percentage of women promoted to these levels is of particular concern as increases in the number of vacancies at these levels due to higher retirement rates present much needed opportunities for accelerating the pace of progress in improving women's representation in the Secretariat.

27. Although both the appointment and promotion statistics show a measurable improvement in the rate at which women are selected for P-3 vacancies, there has been a discernible decline in the rate at which women are appointed and promoted to the P-4 level as shown in tables 6 and 7. As indicated in paragraph 14 above, the representation of women at this level has also decreased slightly (33.7 per cent to 33.5 per cent). This decline is of particular concern as the P-4 level is the avenue for advancement to the management structure of the Secretariat as well as the grade occupied by the largest number of Professional staff.

28. The goal set out in resolution 54/139, that is, that the appointment and promotion of suitably qualified women would not be less than 50 per cent, of all appointments and promotions, was met by 10 departments and offices (table 8). These offices include the Office of Legal Affairs (70 per cent), the Department for Disarmament Affairs (66.6 per cent), the Department of Public Information (64.5 per cent), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner

for Human Rights (54.6 per cent), the Department of Political Affairs (54.2 per cent), the United Nations Office at Vienna (53.8 per cent), the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts (50 per cent) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (50 per cent). Overall, in the appointment and promotion of women, the figure of 42 per cent was achieved.

29. Mobility among staff in the Professional and higher categories remains low. Of the 304 promotion cases reviewed by the appointment and promotion bodies, 32 (10.5 per cent) entailed the transfer of staff between departments and offices. During the period under review, the appointment and promotion bodies reviewed 37 cases of lateral transfer. Although the gender distribution of staff who moved laterally between departments was roughly balanced (48.6 per cent women), more women than men (65.6 per cent) moved between departments on promotion. More women than men also changed duty station: 29 (60.4 per cent) of the 48 staff who moved between duty stations were women.

30. As part of the Secretary-General's goal to create a results-oriented, high performing organization that is flexible and responsive to the variety of challenges it must address, proposals on a new mobility scheme, applicable to staff in both the Professional and General Service categories, are contained in the Secretary-General's report to the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly on human resources management reform.[5]

C. Women in the General Service and related categories

31. The majority of staff in the General Service and related categories are women (4,091 women compared to 3,034 men). However, while women comprise 60.2 per cent of staff in the General Service category (4,024 women out of 6,682 staff), women are under-represented in both the Security and the Trades and Crafts categories, where they account for 7.5 per cent (15 women out of 201 staff) and 3.8 per cent of staff (7 women out of 184 staff), respectively. In the Field Service category, women account for 12.2 per cent (99 women out of 810 staff).

32. During the period under review, a total of only 83 General Service staff (64 women and 19 men) moved between departments and offices in the Secretariat. Of the total of 219 promotion cases at the G-5 to G-7 levels reviewed by the Appointment and Promotion Panel at Headquarters, only 16 staff members (11 women and 5 men) moved between departments and offices. Only two staff members, at the G-5 and G-7 levels, moved laterally between departments and offices at Headquarters.

33. As noted in last year's report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly,[3] staff development and learning programmes for staff in the General Service and related categories have been strengthened and refocused to facilitate the process of reform of the management of the Organization and to enable staff members to better meet the changing needs of the United Nations. Building upon the project to define core competencies for all staff in the Secretariat and managerial competencies for those staff with managerial or supervisory responsibilities, career support programmes have been introduced for General Service staff designed to enhance staff members' communication and work management skills, in such areas as taking initiative, teamwork and cooperation and client servicing.

D. Gender distribution of staff in Professional and higher levels in organizations of the United Nations common system

34. Statistics on the gender distribution of Professional and higher-level staff in all organizations of the United Nations common system, as at 31 December 1998 (the most recent reference point for system-wide data), are provided in the annex to the present report. The statistics were derived from the tables issued annually by the secretariat of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions. Since 31 December 1997, the percentage of women with appointments of one year or more at Headquarters and other established offices of the United Nations common system of organizations has risen from 31.8 per cent to 32.4 per cent. At the senior and policy-making levels, the percentage of women has increased from 15.9 per cent to 17.8 per cent as of 31 December 1998. Among organizations with 100 or more staff, UNICEF had the highest representation of women (47.7 per cent), followed by UNFPA (46.7 per cent). As noted in paragraph 10 above, the latter subsequently met the goal of 50/50 gender distribution in the staffing of Professional and higher-level posts in 1999.

III. Developments since September 1999

A. Steering Committee for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat

35. The Steering Committee for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat, comprised of 12 senior staff members and chaired by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, provides advice to the Secretary-General on policies and strategies to achieve gender balance in staffing and on measures to promote a more gender-sensitive and supportive work environment for all staff in the Secretariat, women and men. The Steering Committee also monitors the progress of departments and offices in meeting the goal of 50/50 gender distribution in the staffing of Professional and higher-level posts.

36. During the past year, the programme of work of the Steering Committee centred on the review and elaboration of the gender component of the departmental action plans on human resources management agreed upon jointly by heads of departments and offices and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management in 1999; on measures to assist heads of departments and offices in their efforts to achieve gender balance; and on means of ensuring the accountability of individual managers for the achievement of gender equality goals. The Steering Committee formed subgroups, which meet with heads of departments and their senior management teams to review progress in improving women's representation, identify obstacles faced by departments in improving gender balance, and assist managers in identifying, attracting and retaining qualified women candidates. The Committee has also sought to identify sources of women candidates at the national level, including through the network of United Nations resident coordinators. The Office of Human Resources Management is also actively involved in monitoring departmental compliance with gender goals agreed to in the departmental action plans on human resources management.

B. Development of action plans to achieve gender balance in departments and offices

37. In accordance with resolution 54/139, the Secretary-General wrote to heads of departments and offices to review their record in selecting women candidates in 1999 and to request their cooperation in the further elaboration of the gender component of the above-mentioned departmental action plans on human resources management. The objectives for improving gender balance contained in these plans would be supported, in the coming year, by the establishment of specific targets for improving women's representation in each department and office. The Secretary-General emphasized that the performance of managers in improving gender balance should be a critical factor in the appraisal of their performance. The performance appraisal of managers, in the future, should include information on the opportunities presented for the selection of women candidates for vacant posts and the progress made in improving women's representation, including through efforts made to identify women candidates.

38. In August 2000, the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management requested heads of departments and offices to establish a target for the selection of women candidates based on current and foreseen vacancies in each department and office for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2000. Heads of departments were advised, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/139, that the target for the selection of women candidates should not be less than 50 per cent of all vacancies. In keeping with the Secretary-General's commitment to the goal of gender equality and the need to accelerate progress in improving women's representation, particularly at the senior and policy-making levels, heads of departments and offices were urged to set bold targets for the selection of women candidates.

39. Managers, from first-line supervisors to senior management, are expected to play an active role in meeting departmental targets. In the first quarter of 2001, heads of departments and offices will report to the Secretary-General on progress made in meeting the targets set for improving women's representation during the initial six-month plan period (1 July to 31 December 2000). New targets will be set for the

year 2001, taking into account each department's performance in executing the gender action plans for the period from 1 July-31 December 2000. The progress reports submitted to the Secretary-General will include a description of the actions and initiatives taken by programme managers to identify suitably qualified women candidates. These might include the identification of external recruitment sources for posts in certain occupations for which there is an insufficient supply of internal women candidates, as well as the implementation of managed reassignments for staff, both women and men, to develop and broaden their skills. Others might include the development of contacts or networks with managers in other related fields to identify and develop sources of women candidates, both internally and externally, and the identification of sources of women candidates while on mission assignments.

C. Gender sensitivity and gender mainstreaming training

40. Specific training programmes on gender issues in the workplace and gender mainstreaming at the request of departments. Each programme is tailored to meet the special needs of individual departments and is developed in collaboration with department heads and focus groups of staff. The aim of these programmes is to foster better understanding between men and women, to maximize the contributions of both men and women to the work of the Organization, and to promote an active and visible policy on mainstreaming the gender perspective in the work of the Organization. In the gender issues in the workplace programme, men and women examine their experiences, assumptions and perceptions about themselves and the opposite gender in the workplace with a view towards gaining insight into how to work more productively together. The mainstreaming of the gender perspective programme for departments focuses on examining the department's substantive work and its processes with a view towards assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, policy or programme, highlighting and developing best practices and preparing a departmental action plan for initiating constructive change.

41. Since the last report, the Office of Human Resources Management has been working with a number of departments and offices to develop and implement programmes on various gender-related issues. Training Programmes on gender sensitivity and gender mainstreaming were offered to Professional and General Service staff at ESCWA. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations received training on gender issues in the workplace and an introduction to gender mainstreaming concepts and practices. Both ESCWA and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations developed action plans based on the training received. Training on gender issues in the workplace was also carried out for Professional and General Service staff at the United Nations Offices at Vienna and Nairobi.

42. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is currently designing a competency development programme in gender mainstreaming for all Professional staff in the department. The programme will be launched in the autumn of 2000 and completed in the summer of 2001. ESCAP will launch a similar programme in the coming year building upon the training programme on incorporating gender considerations into project planning and design conducted in 1998 in collaboration with FAO. The United Nations Office at Nairobi is also planning to conduct training on gender mainstreaming in the human settlements and environment work programmes and to develop a pilot course on management training for women.

43. The General Assembly, at its twenty-third special session in June 2000, strongly reaffirmed the importance of the gender mainstreaming strategy to the achievement of the goals set out in the Beijing Platform for Action for women's empowerment. In support of this strategy, the General Assembly called upon the United Nations system to ensure that all United Nations personnel, especially in field operations, receive training in order to mainstream a gender perspective in their work. In his report to the General Assembly on the outcome of the special session;[6] the Secretary-General stated that he continues to support emphasis on gender mainstreaming, including by ensuring, subject to approval by the General Assembly, that adequate resources are allocated to gender training. Until gender training is made mandatory, as is the case for orientation and performance appraisal, the work and environment of the Secretariat, both at Headquarters and elsewhere, will not fully benefit.

D. Work/family agenda

44. In their statement to the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, the Executive Heads of the organizations of the United Nations system pledged to take steps and develop common policies on retaining women, especially through effective spousal employment assistance.[7] The issue of spouse employment was singled out by the Administrative Committee on Coordination at its session in October 1999 as a major concern affecting the ability of organizations to attract and retain women staff.

45. As noted in last year's report to the General Assembly, spouse employment was one of the work/life issues identified for priority attention by the Quality of Work/Life Task Force, chaired by the Office of Human Resources Management, with the participation of representatives of UNDP, UNICEF and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. Restrictions on spouse employment in various duty stations are considered not only an obstacle to the recruitment of staff, but also as factors impeding the mobility of staff members across duty stations. In a survey of staff conducted this year by UNICEF, limitations on spouse employment opportunities was cited by the majority of respondents as the principal factor impeding staff mobility within UNICEF. The Quality of Work/Life Task Force has recommended that the United Nations negotiate more favourable arrangements with host countries in duty stations where restrictions are placed on spouse employment. The Office of Human Resources Management, in turn, has identified spouse employment as one of the work/life issues that must be addressed in the implementation of a new mobility policy for the Secretariat.

46. Other issues currently being addressed by the Quality of Work/Life Committee include the introduction of flexible working arrangements, such as alternative work schedules and home-based work, enhanced child-care arrangements and domestic partnerships. The consideration of new and innovative human resources management practices, such as paternity leave, to address these issues, which increasingly pose challenges for men as well as women, may, in large part, be attributed to the impact women have had on the world of work.

E. Establishment of focal points for women in peacekeeping missions

47. In June 2000, following meetings with the Focal Point for Women in the Secretariat, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations decided to designate focal points for women in each United Nations peacekeeping mission. Focal points will be designated from among the staff at the mission in consultation with the head of mission. Terms of reference of the focal points have been drafted by the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, in connection with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The principal role of the focal point will be to assist the head of mission in fostering a gender-sensitive working climate, supportive of the full and equal participation of international and locally recruited female staff in the work of each mission. The focal points for women in peacekeeping operations will also be available to counsel and advise women staff members on work environment issues and matters affecting their conditions of service. They shall maintain close contact with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. These focal points would be designated without prejudice to the establishment of units responsible for programmatic gender mainstreaming such as those in Kosovo and East Timor.

IV. Conclusions

48. Since the submission of the last report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat,[3] there has been modest progress in improving the representation of women. Progress in improving gender balance at the senior and policy-making levels (D-1 and above) has slowed, following a two year period during which significant headway was made. This is due to the increase in the number and percentage of men at the D-2 level as well as the slowdown in the rate at which women are being appointed to posts at the D-1 level compared to the previous year. The representation of women at the D-1 level and above remains unacceptably low (24.7 per cent), well below the 50 per cent target.

49. To date, progress in improving gender balance has been measured largely on the basis of the annual

percentage increase in the representation of women and the annual rates at which women have been appointed and promoted in the Secretariat. While these data provide an important measure of progress over time, a more comprehensive gauge is required, one which takes into account the number, levels, occupational distribution and job content of vacancies within individual departments and offices and the performance of programme managers in improving gender balance based upon these opportunities. The establishment of plans of action for improving gender balance at the level of individual departments and offices and the record of actions taken by managers to expand the pool of qualified women candidates will provide a transparent yardstick against which progress can be measured and accountability established. These plans will also allow management to identify those departments in which there will be significant opportunities for improving the gender distribution of Professional and higher-level staff. Monitoring of the implementation of the plans will also allow management to identify occupations or areas where it has been difficult to attract a sufficient pool of qualified women candidates. Equipped with this information, management will be in a better position to devise strategies to expand the pool of suitably qualified women candidates and thereby accelerate the pace of progress in improving women's representation in the Secretariat.

50. In the coming year, priority will be assigned, in collaboration with the Office of Human Resources Management, to the identification of sources of women candidates for vacancies identified in the departmental action plans, the evaluation of progress made in improving women's representation based on the implementation of the gender action plans, the refinement of strategies to increase the supply of women candidates and the examination of factors which impede the mobility of staff, both Professional and General Service, across functions, occupations, departments and duty stations. Increasing attention will also be paid to the implementation of the work/family agenda, particularly in the area of effective spousal employment assistance, and to the design of measures for enhancing the career development of General Service staff, the majority of whom are women.

51. Women Heads of State and Government met together with women heads of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes for the first time prior to the opening of the Millennium Summit. In considering ways to strengthen the United Nations in the twenty-first century, the women leaders made a number of recommendations aimed at promoting the broadest participation and integration of women in the work of the Organization. The United Nations was urged to strengthen the number, level and participation of women in peacekeeping, peace-making and peace-building operations and in reconstruction and humanitarian assistance efforts, and to improve the representation of women at all levels within the Organization. Governments, in turn, were urged to support these efforts by appointing female permanent representatives to United Nations missions and female heads of delegations dealing with major economic, social, security, human rights and humanitarian issues.

52. The Secretary-General is committed to achieving the goal of gender equality in the Secretariat, both by accelerating the pace of progress to improve gender balance and through the implementation of measures designed to ensure that staff, both women and men, are able to contribute their maximum potential to the work of the Organization. However, without the sustained support of Member States in providing women candidates sources of recruitment, progress will continue to be slow.

Notes

[1] A/S-23/8.

[2] Further to a memorandum of understanding on personnel procedures between the Office of Human Resources Management and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, staff of the Pension Fund are no longer included in the composition of the Secretariat in view of the special inter-agency status of the Fund.

[3] A/54/405.

[4] Including the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, the Contributions Service, the Treasury, the Management Policy Office, the Oversight Support Unit, the Executive Office, the Secretariat of the Fifth Committee and the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Secretariat of the Joint Appeals Board and the Joint Disciplinary Committee. Excluding the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, the Office of Central Support Services, and the Office of Human Resources Management.

[5] A/55/253.

[6] A/55/341.

[7] A/S-23/8, annex.

Table 1
Gender distribution of all Professional and higher-level staff with appointments of one year or more in the United Nations Secretariat, by department or office and by grade, as at 30 June 2000

Department/ Office	USG		ASG		D-2		D-1		P-5		P-4		P-3		P-2		P-1		Total		Grand total	Percentage of women
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
unfip					1					1	1	2							2	3	**5**	60.0%
dm	1				1		2	2	4	5	3	5	1	2		3			12	17	**29**	58.6%
dm/ohrm				1	2	1	2	2	9	10	11	10	4	9	4	5			32	38	**70**	54.3%
dpi	1				4	1	6	7	21	14	34	32	28	43	23	24			117	121	**238**	50.8%
dm/oppba			1		4		2	3	7	6	15	18	18	18	3	6			50	51	**101**	50.5%
regcom								1	1										1	1	**2**	50.0%
ohchr		1			1		2	2	4	6	17	4	16	16	4	10			44	39	**83**	47.0%
desa	1		1	1	7	3	19	8	28	24	40	40	31	24	20	17			147	117	**264**	44.3%
ocha					3	1	4		10	6	9	5	14	11		7			40	30	**70**	42.9%
ola	1		1		3		5	4	10	6	7	8	13	9	4	5			44	32	**76**	42.1%
dgaacs	1		1		3		5	6	62	43	138	75	117	90	7	8			334	222	**556**	39.9%
escwa	1					1	5		16	5	18	3	4	16	4	6			48	31	**79**	39.2%
uncc			1		2		5		2	3	13	7	37	17	20	24			80	51	**131**	38.9%
osg	1	1	2	1	3	2	4	1	5	1	4	2	4	6	1	1			24	15	**39**	38.5%
odccp	1				2		8	2	22	3	22	11	15	19	5	10		1	75	46	**121**	38.0%
interorg					2		3		2	1	1	3	1	2	1				10	6	**16**	37.5%
osrsgcac	1										2	1	2	2					5	3	**8**	37.5%
dda	1				1		2	1	2	6	5	2	4		2	1			17	10	**27**	37.0%
unog	1				1	1	8	5	29	26	78	46	78	28	12	15			207	121	**328**	36.9%
oios	1					1	3	2	7	3	21	12	8	4	6	3			46	25	**71**	35.2%
unov					1	1	2	1	9	4	31	13	14	9	4	5			61	33	**94**	35.1%
unoip	1				2		1		2	1	2	4	2	1	3	1			13	7	**20**	35.0%
eclac	1				1		6	5	17	8	31	17	22	16	25	11			103	55	**158**	34.8%
unon							2		5	1	19	6	13	11	6	6			45	24	**69**	34.8%
dpa	2		2		8	2	5	6	21	8	19	10	10	10	5	2			72	38	**110**	34.5%
dm/ocss			1		1		6	3	13	5	24	11	27	13	8	6			80	38	**118**	32.2%
dpko	2		1		4		7	1	13	7	45	19	36	17	3	8			111	52	**163**	31.9%
unep	1		1		9	1	26	5	37	9	59	23	30	29	8	10		1	171	78	**249**	31.3%
escap	1					1	7	2	22	3	38	10	23	12	7	11			98	39	**137**	28.5%
unchs							1		6	2	15	5	8	4	1	1			31	12	**43**	27.9%
unctad	1		1		2	2	14	2	28	8	38	8	37	24	16	9			137	53	**190**	27.9%
ece						1	6	2	15	6	21	5	21	7	10	7			73	28	**101**	27.7%
eca	1					1	9	3	22	5	25	9	34	15	15	6			106	39	**145**	26.9%
dpkofald	7		10		12	1	17	4	48	7	101	32	117	47	33	33	2		347	124	**471**	26.3%
unmovic							1	1	2	1	3								6	2	**8**	25.0%
Total	29	2	23	3	80	21	195	81	501	242	910	458	789	531	260	261	2	2	2789	1601	4390	36.5%

Table 2
Gender distribution of all Professional and higher-level staff with appointments subject to geographical distribution in the United Nations Secretariat, by department or office and by grade, as at 30 June 2000

Department/ Office	USG		ASG		D-2		D-1		P-5		P-4		P-3		P-2		P-1		Total		Grand total	Percentage of women
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
unmovic								1											0	1	1	100.0 %
dm	1				1		2	2	3	5	2	5	1	2		2			10	16	26	61.5 %
dm/ohrm				1	2	1	2	2	9	10	10	10	4	8	4	4			31	36	67	53.7 %
unep	1				1				2	2	2	3		3	2	1			8	9	17	52.9 %
dpi	1				4	1	6	7	21	14	34	31	27	43	22	22			115	118	233	50.6 %
dm/oppba			1		4		2	3	7	6	14	17	13	14	3	5			44	45	89	50.6 %
regcom								1	1										1	1	2	50.0 %
unfip					1					1									1	1	2	50.0 %
unoip	1								1	1		1	1	1					3	3	6	50.0 %
ocha					3	1	3		6	3	5	3	5	8		6			22	21	43	48.8 %
dpko	1		1		4		4	1	6	6	12	13	9	8	3	7			40	35	75	46.7 %
desa	1		1	1	7	3	18	9	27	24	40	40	30	24	19	17			143	117	260	45.0 %
ohchr		1			1		2	2	4	4	14	4	14	14	4	6			39	31	70	44.3 %
dgaacs	1		1		3		5	6	9	3	5	5	6	7		2			30	23	53	43.4 %
interorg					1				2			1		2	1				4	3	7	42.9 %
unog	1				1		7	5	6	5	13	9	21	11	8	11			57	41	98	41.8 %
escwa	1					1	5		16	5	15	3	2	15	4	6			43	30	73	41.1 %
odccp	1				1		1	1	9	1	11	7	8	7	3	6			34	22	56	39.3 %
osg	1	1	2	1	2	2	4	1	5	1	2	1	3	4		1			19	12	31	38.7 %
ola	1		1		3		5	4	10	6	6	7	13	5	4	4			43	26	69	37.7 %
dda	1				1		2	1	2	6	5	2	4		2	1			17	10	27	37.0 %
dpa	1		2		5	2	5	6	18	6	15	9	8	9	4	2			58	34	92	37.0 %
unov					1	1	2	1	5	2	8	2	3	3	4	4			23	13	36	36.1 %
olos	1						2	2	6	2	11	8	7	3	5	3			32	18	50	36.0 %
dpkofald	1				1	1	4	2	13	3	16	9	16	10	2	3			53	28	81	34.6 %
eclac	1				1		6	5	15	5	30	15	20	14	21	10			94	49	143	34.3 %
unon							1		2	1	2		4	1	2	3			11	5	16	31.3 %
dm/ocss			1		1		5	3	11	5	23	10	18	7	8	5			67	30	97	30.9 %
escap	1					1	7	2	20	3	32	9	14	11	7	10			81	36	117	30.8 %
unchs							1		5	2	9	4	6	2	1	1			22	9	31	29.0 %
eca	1					1	9	3	21	5	24	9	29	14	13	6			97	38	135	28.1 %
unctad	1		1		2	2	14	2	28	8	38	8	35	22	16	8			135	50	185	27.0 %
ece						1	6	2	15	6	21	5	20	4	9	7			71	25	96	26.0 %
osrsgcac											1		1						2	0	2	00.0 %
uncc			1		1		1												3	0	3	00.0 %
Total	20	2	12	3	52	18	131	73	305	151	420	250	342	276	171	163			1453	936	2389	39.2 %

Table 3
Comparison of the gender distribution of Professional and higher-level staff on appointments subject to geographical distribution as at 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2000

	30 June 1999			*30 June 2000*		
Level	*Men*	*Women*	*Percentage of women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Percentage of women*
USG	21	2	8.7	20	2	9.0
ASG	14	3	17.6	12	3	20.0
D-2	53	16	23.2	52	18	25.7
D-1	136	71	34.3	131	73	35.8
P-5	310	143	31.6	305	151	33.1
P-4	440	254	36.6	420	250	37.3
P-3	346	275	44.3	342	276	44.7
P-2	171	155	47.5	171	163	48.8
P-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**1491**	**919**	**38.1**	**1453**	**936**	**39.2**

Table 4
Comparison of the gender distribution of Professional and higher-level staff with appointments of one year or more as at 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2000

	30 June 1999			*30 June 2000*		
Level	*Men*	*Women*	*Percentage of women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Percentage of women*
USG	29	3	9.4	29	2	6.5
ASG	24	4	14.3	23	3	11.5
D-2	69	19	21.6	80	21	20.8
D-1	194	76	28.1	195	81	29.3
P-5	495	212	30.0	501	242	32.6
P-4	894	454	33.7	910	458	33.5
P-3	777	508	39.5	789	531	40.2
P-2	278	259	48.2	260	261	50.1
P-1	2	7	77.8	2	2	50.0
Total	**2762**	**1542**	**35.8**	**2789**	**1601**	**36.5**

Source: Human Resources Planning and Management Information System Service.

Table 5
Comparison of the gender distribution of Professional and higher-level staff on appointments subject to geographical distribution as at 30 June 1990 and 30 June 2000

Level	30 June 1990		30 June 2000	
	Number	Percentage of women	Number	Percentage of women
USG	2	7.7	2	9.1
ASG	0	0	3	20.0
D-2	8	10.1	18	25.7
D-1	16	6.8	73	35.8
P-5	73	15.8	151	33.1
P-4	180	26.7	250	37.3
P-3	261	39.0	276	44.7
P-2	175	45.8	163	48.8
P-1	10	62.5	0	0
Total	**725**	**28.3**	**936**	**39.2**

Source: A/45/548 and The Human Resources Management and Management Information System Service.

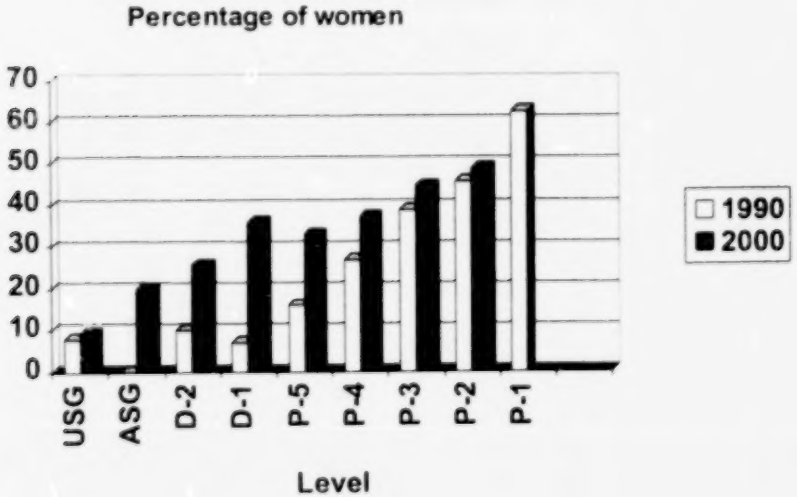

Table 6
Gender distribution of Professional and higher-level staff appointed to the United Nations Secretariat between 1 July 1998 and 30 June 2000

Level	From 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999			From 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000		
	Men	Women	Percentage of women	Men	Women	Percentage of women
USG	1	-	-	1	-	-
ASG	1	-	-	1	-	-
D-2	4	5	55.6	4	3	42.9
D-1	8	3	27.3	11	5	31.3
P-5	15	7	31.8	11	6	35.3
P-4	48	17	26.2	44	11	20.0
P-3[a]	60	28	31.8	46	37	44.6
P-2[a]	27	49	64.5	48	51	51.5
P-1	-	1	100	-	-	-
Total	**164**	**110**	**40.1**	**166**	**113**	**40.5**

Source: The Human Resources Management and Management Information System Service.

a. Figures at the P-2 and P-3 levels include staff recruited through the national competitive examinations and language examinations.

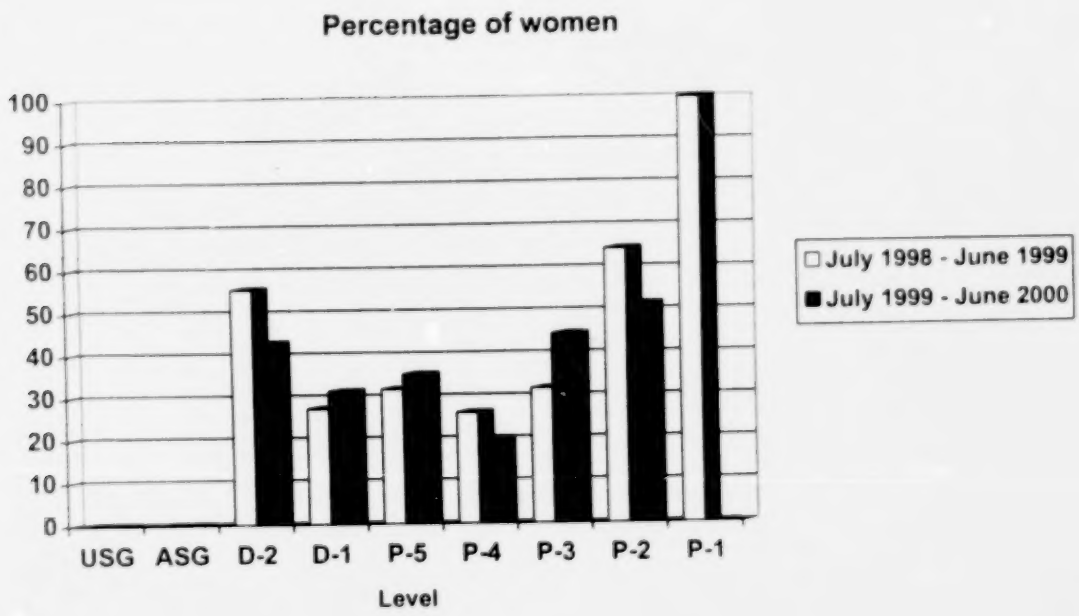

Table 7
Gender distribution of Professional and higher-level staff promoted in the United Nations Secretariat between 1 July 1998 and 30 June 2000

Level	From 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999			From 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000		
	Men	Women	Percentage of women	Men	Women	Percentage of women
USG	-	-	-	-	-	-
ASG	1	-	-	-	-	-
D-2	10	-	-	8	2	20.0
D-1	12	14	53.8	21	10	32.3
P-5	46	35	43.2	56	32	36.4
P-4	61	52	46.0	71	50	41.3
P-3	48	43	47.3	54	56	50.9
P-2a	5	9	64.3	4	12	75.0
P-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**183**	**153**	**45.5**	**214**	**162**	**43.1**

Source: The Human Resources Management and Management Information System Service.

a Figures at the P-2 level include staff recruited through the G-P examinations.

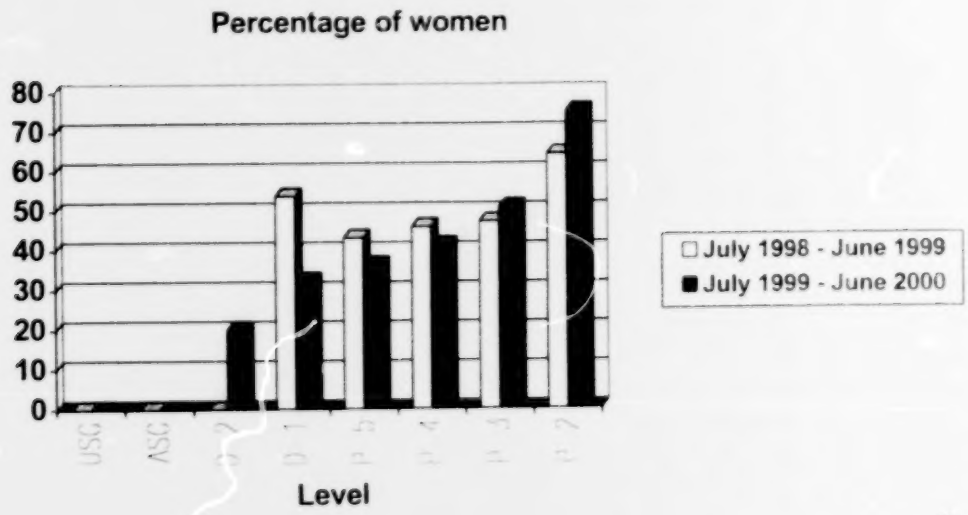

Table 8
Departments and offices which met or exceeded the goal of gender balance in the appointment and promotion of staff for vacant posts during the period 1 July 1999-30 June 2000

Department	ASG		D-2		D-1		P-5		P-4		P-3		P-2		Total		Total	Percentage of women
Gender	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women		
UNCHS										1						1	1	100
OLA										1	3	3		3	3	7	10	70.0
DDA					1	1		2		1	1				2	4	6	66.6
DPI			1	1		2	3	4	2	3	2	3	3	7	11	20	31	64.5
OHCHR					1	1		1	2	1	1	2	1	1	5	6	11	54.6
DPA	1		1				3	2	3	6	2	4	1	1	11	13	24	54.2
UNOV			1	1	1			1	1	1	2	3	1	1	6	7	13	53.8
DM/OPPBA							1	1	3	1	5	5		2	9	9	18	50.0
ESCAP					2		1	2	6	2	3	4		4	12	12	24	50.0
UNOIP					1			1							1	1	2	50.0

Source: Human Resources Management and Management Information System Service.

Annex

Gender distribution of Professional and higher-level staff in the organizations of the United Nations system (at Headquarters and other established offices) as at 31 December 1998

	P1		P2		P3		P4		P5		D1		D2		UG[a]		Total		Grand total	Percentage of Women
Organiz	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W		
UNICEF	0	1	22	36	47	53	70	62	74	48	20	18	10	5	1	2	251	229	480	47.7%
UNFPA	4	4	13	30	12	17	23	33	69	35	23	10	10	5	1	2	155	136	291	46.7%
PAHO	1	2	12	13	16	20	33	26	34	18	5	2	1	0	2	3	117	89	206	43.2%
UNITAR	0	0	0	1	1	1	4	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	4	10	40.0%
WFP	2	1	11	16	23	27	42	20	30	10	13	7	5	1	2	1	128	83	211	39.3%
UNESCO	27	24	74	104	105	118	139	83	178	62	90	14	31	9	10	1	654	415	1069	38.8%
UNDP	12	3	119	130	57	37	109	104	156	74	123	25	49	13	8	2	633	388	1021	38.0%
UNHCR	1	2	110	150	288	185	217	84	96	24	38	15	10	1	2	1	767	463	1230	37.6%
UNAIDS	2	0	4	5	5	2	18	20	38	14	5	1	1	2	1	0	74	44	118	37.3%
UN	14	39	273	259	767	502	869	427	484	202	193	68	70	19	52	9	2722	1525	4247	35.9%
WTO	0	0	11	21	30	25	55	26	38	17	15	1	8	0	4	0	161	90	251	35.9%
IMO	0	0	9	12	14	14	16	13	33	1	5	1	5	1	1	0	83	42	125	33.6%
ICSC	0	0	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	10	5	15	33.3%
IFAD	1	2	3	9	2	7	21	17	46	6	10	2	4	1	4	0	91	44	135	32.6%
ILO	1	0	13	27	63	66	142	77	178	38	54	7	20	2	11	3	482	220	702	31.3%
WIPO	0	1	9	15	21	26	55	14	42	13	21	4	11	0	7	0	166	73	239	30.5%
ITC	0	0	3	5	9	7	20	6	11	2	4	1	1	0	1	0	49	21	70	30.0%
WHO	1	5	33	45	84	56	170	87	326	92	90	24	39	9	11	3	755	321	1076	29.8%
ICAT	0	0	0	2	11	9	21	8	12	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	48	20	68	29.4%
FAO	0	0	52	35	135	86	292	68	287	29	115	8	38	6	15	0	934	232	1166	19.9%
UPU	0	0	1	0	30	11	13	6	5	1	8	0	3	0	2	0	62	18	80	22.5%
ICAO	0	1	9	16	31	19	127	23	42	5	19	0	5	0	2	0	235	64	299	21.4%
UNU	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	4	0	3	0	4	0	1	0	15	4	19	21.1%
UNIDO	3	1	5	10	29	21	78	13	64	14	36	0	7	0	2	0	224	59	283	20.8%
ITU	2	2	12	6	39	25	83	16	48	3	14	1	0	0	5	0	203	53	256	20.7%
WMO	0	0	2	3	6	9	35	9	31	3	10	0	8	0	3	0	99	24	123	19.5%
UNOPS	0	1	8	5	21	8	46	11	70	10	30	3	6	1	1	0	182	39	221	17.6%
IAEA	5	3	38	28	179	57	243	36	211	15	20	6	10	0	7	0	713	145	858	16.9%
UNRWA	0	0	6	4	25	3	42	1	20	2	5	2	1	0	2	0	101	12	113	10.6%
ICJ	0	0	0	1	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	1	10	10.0%
Total	76	92	853	990	2056	1415	2992	1293	2630	741	971	220	362	75	159	27	10129	4863	14992	32.4%

[a] UG stands for "ungraded" - e.g. USG, ASG, DDG, ADG, DG, SG, depending on the nomenclature used in the given organization.

Source: Personnel Statistics (ACC/2000/PER/R.10, 27 March 2000).

United Nations A/55/399/Corr.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 October 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 107 and 123

Advancement of women

Human resources management

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Paragraph 45, third sentence

The sentence *should read*

In a survey of staff conducted this year by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, limitations on spouse employment opportunities was cited by the majority of respondents as the principal factor impeding staff mobility within UNHCR.

00-68279 (E) 101000

United Nations A/55/400

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 September 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 114 (c)
Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Human rights situation in southern Lebanon and western Bekaa

Note by the Secretary-General*

1. By its decision 2000/249 of 28 July 2000, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/16 of 18 April 2000 on the human rights situation in southern Lebanon and western Bekaa; and approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to bring the resolution to the attention of the Government of Israel and to invite it to provide information concerning the extent of its implementation, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the results of his efforts in that regard.

2. In view of the requests formulated by the Commission in the resolution, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel on 14 July 2000.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present note.

4. On 16 June 2000, the Secretary-General had reported to the Security Council (S/2000/590 and Corr.1) that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon had completed the verification process, and confirmed that Israeli forces had withdrawn from Lebanon in compliance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and met the requirements defined by the Secretary-General.

* The present note was submitted after 5 July because of the need to await the decision of the Economic and Social Council.

00-65302 (E) 021000

United Nations A/55/401

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 September 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 25
Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Report of the Secretary-General*

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* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/248, sect. C, para. 1, the present report is being submitted on 20 September so as to include all contributions from the United Nations system.

00-65187 (E) 191000

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 54/9 of 18 November 1999.

II. Consultations and exchanges of information

2. During the period under review, the secretariats of the United Nations and the League of Arab States as well as the Office of the Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States to the United Nations continued to maintain close contact on matters of mutual concern to the two organizations.

3. The Secretary-General of the League, Dr. Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, met with the Secretary-General in September 1999 at United Nations Headquarters. He also met with Mr. Yuli Vorontsov, the High-level Coordinator for the Repatriation of Kuwaiti Missing Persons and Third Nationals and the Return of Kuwaiti Property, in April 2000 and with Mr. Terje Roed-Larsen, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East peace process in May 2000. High-level contacts between the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the League included a meeting between the directors of the educational programmes in the five regional operations of UNRWA and the League host authorities, in November 1999; a meeting between the Commissioner-General of UNRWA and the Under-Secretary-General for Palestine Affairs, in January 2000; and a meeting between the Commissioner-General of UNRWA and the League overseers of refugee affairs, in January 2000. All meetings were held at the League headquarters in Cairo.

III. Follow-up action on proposals agreed to at general meetings between organizations of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States

4. A summary of the reports of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system on their cooperation with the League during the period under review follows. It represents the follow-up action on proposals adopted at the joint meetings held at Geneva in 1997 (A/52/378) and Vienna in 1999 (A/54/180).

A. United Nations Secretariat

1. Department of Public Information

5. The Radio and Central News Service produced programmes covering the following topics: cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the League in the field of development and the holding of a conference on poor women; signing of an agreement between UNDP and the League for joint action regarding the economy, environment and education; issues before the General Assembly during its fifty-fourth session; the situations in the Sudan and in Iraq; the question of Palestine; and the report of the Bethlehem 2000 project. UN Radio conducted interviews with Esmat Abdel Meguid, Secretary-General of the League, and Mohamed Alfateh Alnasseri, an expert in nuclear disarmament.

6. The United Nations Information Centres (UNICs) carried out a variety of activities. UNIC Cairo, in cooperation with the League, was involved in a regional symposium, "International Investment Arrangements and Their Implications for Arab Countries" (May 1999); a regional seminar, "Human Rights and Development" (June 1999); a regional meeting, "Arab Telecommunication Development" (September 1999); and a "Cairo Telecom 2000" conference (January 2000). UNIC Beirut arranged media coverage for the United Nations and Arab League meeting on youth and employment (May 2000). UNIC Tunis, with the Association des études internationales, organized a one-day seminar at which the Under-Secretary-General of the League spoke.

7. The United Nations Information Service in Geneva publicized statements by representatives of the League and of Arab countries to the Commission on Human Rights, the Conference on Disarmament and treaty bodies. It disseminated information on statements by the Secretary-General and activities by the Security Council on the Middle East, the humanitarian and relief efforts in Sudan and Somalia, and the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

8. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library has continued to maintain cooperative relations with the League and its Documentation and Information Centre. Substantial progress has been made in the translation of *UNBIS Thesaurus* terms into Arabic, with terminology taken, wherever possible, from the *ALDOC Thesaurus* in order to standardize search terms for on-line databases. In addition, the Library has provided, upon request, customized training to both the Observer Mission of the League of Arab States and to individual members of the League, focusing on electronic access to information (both current and retrospective) of regional interest.

2. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

9. Since 1998, the Department has organized a series of regional meetings to follow up on the recommendations of the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, at which it stressed the need to accelerate regional implementation of Agenda 21 and promote regional cooperation in sustainable development.

10. The Regional Consultative Meeting on Sustainable Development in the Arab region is proposed to be held at the headquarters of the League from 26 to 28 October 2000, to be followed immediately by a special session of the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region. The meeting is to be organized jointly by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, UNDP, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Department.

B. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

11. UNCHS (Habitat) coordinates activities related to human settlements in the Arab States region with the League. The regional office for Africa and the Arab States invites the League to participate in all its regional conferences and, where applicable and appropriate, to co-organize joint activities. UNCHS also participates, whenever possible, in the Ministers of Housing annual meetings held at League headquarters. Currently, with the League and ESCWA, UNCHS is organizing a regional meeting at the level of Ministers of Housing as part of the event to be held in Bahrain in October 2000, five years after the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul.

C. United Nations Children's Fund

12. UNICEF participates actively in the annual meetings of the Consultative Technical Committee on Childhood and the meetings of the specialized Ministerial Councils of the League, particularly the Council of Ministers of Health.

D. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

13. During 1999, intensive consultations took place between the UNCTAD secretariat and the League regarding the formulation of a comprehensive programme of technical assistance on trade, including related issues addressed by the World Trade Organization (WTO). It is expected that the League secretariat will be associated in the implementation of a comprehensive programme of technical assistance to be developed by UNCTAD and UNDP for the benefit of Arab countries.

14. The representative of the League in Geneva attended and co-chaired a symposium organized by UNCTAD and UNDP in Amman for Arab countries acceding to the WTO. The representative co-chaired a brainstorming meeting organized by UNCTAD and UNDP on the preparations of Arab countries for the WTO Third Ministerial Conference in Seattle. The representative also participated in various events organized by UNCTAD in the field of trade and a conference debate for Geneva-based Permanent Missions of Arab countries.

15. During UNCTAD's tenth Conference, held in Bangkok in February 2000, the League delegation attended a meeting on trade and investment organized by the UNCTAD secretariat to discuss the specific needs of the Arab countries. Consultations also took place in Bangkok with regard to formulating a programme for a symposium (Assistance on the implementation of the Pan-Arab Free Trade Zone) to be organized in Tunisia by UNCTAD in November 2000.

16. Exchanges between UNCTAD and the League continued on a proposed technical assistance project, for which funding is currently being sought, designed

to identify areas where the provision of UNCTAD expertise could enhance the capacity of the League secretariat and its member States to improve trade facilitation, including customs modernization of intra-Arab regional and international trade. The project would identify a programme of assistance that would contribute to a modernized, rationalized and efficient trade infrastructure and administration of trading operations by harmonizing and simplifying customs and transport-related procedures, documents and data within the trade facilitation framework in the region. This would also lead to a strengthened economic integration process through improved trade cooperation between member countries of the League and with the international trading community, thus contributing significantly to the Pan-Arab Free Trade Zone, a priority of the League.

E. United Nations International Drug Control Programme Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

17. Apart from cooperation with individual countries members of the League, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention maintains regular working contacts with the Arab Interior Ministers Council, a specialized agency of the League. Such contacts have recently been promoted following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Secretariat General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) and UNDCP. The memorandum of understanding, which focuses on cooperation in drug control matters, was signed on 11 April 2000 in Vienna by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ben Mohammed Al Salem, Secretary-General of AIMC, and Mr. Pino Arlacchi, Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, during the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders.

18. After the above meeting, agreement was reached on an action plan for implementing the operational drug control component of the memorandum of understanding. The action plan foresees a regular exchange of information, joint research projects, development of joint technical cooperation activities, and regular operational meetings between the agencies involved.

F. United Nations Development Programme

19. Direct contacts and cooperation with the General Secretariat of the League and its specialized agencies intensified during the period under review. The signing of the cooperation agreement between the League and UNDP by the Secretary-General of the League and the UNDP Administrator on 22 September 1999 marked a new era in this cooperation. The agreement aims at strengthening cooperation in matters of joint concern in public administration and in the social, economic, environmental, cultural, information and human development fields. In support of this cooperation, UNDP financed a project that is helping the League to establish a human development forum and a migration observatory, and to organize a regional conference on women and poverty. Moreover, UNDP indicated its willingness to cooperate in the production of a regional human development report for the Arab region and had supported the League in establishing the Pan-Arab Free Trade Zone.

G. United Nations Environment Programme

20. UNEP continued its support to the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) over the year, with emphasis on priority programmes identified at the annual ministerial meetings. Two memorandums of understanding were further developed between UNEP and CAMRE, in 1998 and in 1999. The objectives of these memorandums of understanding include consolidation of available resources, avoiding duplication, and focusing on the priorities identified by the ministerial councils within the UNEP global environmental programme.

H. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

21. ESCWA and the League co-sponsored four regional preparatory meetings which culminated in the Arab Conference on Integrated Follow-up to United Nations Global Conferences (Beirut, November 1999), held also in cooperation with the League. ESCWA presented a paper at the Seminar on Electronic Data Interchange, organized by the League (Alexandria,

Egypt, October 1999). The paper was entitled "ESCWA and the application of electronic data interchange for facilitating transport and trade in the region". The preparation of an integrated transport system in the Arab Mashreq involved extensive consultation and coordination with the individual countries and with the League and its subsidiaries. ESCWA participated in the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions of the Arab Women Committee of the League (Cairo, May 1998 and June 1999, respectively). It also attended the meeting "The Arab family and the elderly: the role and the relationship", convened by the League and the Marriage Fund and Women's Federation of the United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi, December 1999).

22. ESCWA was represented at the Workshop on the Role of Women in Protecting the Environment against Pollution and Rationalizing the Use of Resources (Cairo, April 1999). The Workshop was organized by the League and the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), in cooperation with the UNEP regional office for Western Asia. It was agreed that ESCWA would assist in the preparation and distribution of guidelines on the subject and would continue its follow-up and cooperation activities relating to women and the environment. ESCWA participated in the Fourth International Conference on Water Resources Management, Use and Policies in Dry Areas (Amman, December 1999), co-sponsored by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), at which it presented two papers, one entitled "Aspects of desalination in the ESCWA region" and the second, "The socio-economic dimension of the debate on pricing of irrigation water".

23. ESCWA participated in a regional symposium on policy assessment and modalities for cost recovery in ensuring water supply for irrigation and the impact on agricultural production, organized by the Damascus office of AOAD (Damascus, October 1999) and a regional seminar organized by AOAD on increasing women's participation in rural development and productive activities (Cairo, September 1999), at which it presented a paper, "The future of women's development role in cities, suburbs and rural areas in the ESCWA region". Both organizations AOAD and ESCWA co-sponsored an expert group meeting on the harmonization of norms and standards for selected agricultural commodities to facilitate trade in the ESCWA region (Beirut, April 1999).

24. ESCWA also participated in the International Conference on Regional Aquifer Systems in Arid Zones: Managing Non-renewable Resources, organized by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) (Tripoli, November 1999). Moreover, in cooperation with UNESCO's regional office, ALECSO, and the Lebanese National Hydrology Commission, ESCWA held an expert group meeting on the harmonization of environmental standards in the water sector of ESCWA member States (Beirut, September/October 1999). The *Bulletin of Arab Industrial Statistics*, a joint publication of ESCWA and the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO), is issued once every two years. The two organizations also co-organized, with the Islamic Development Bank, a training workshop on industrial and construction statistics (Beirut, November/December 1999).

I. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

25. The Cairo office of UNESCO continues to cooperate with certain specialized organizations of the League. During the period under review, the office was represented at meetings of the League Joint Executive Committee for Environment and Development and of its subcommittee on desertification and the environment. The League is also regularly invited to attend all UNESCO/Cairo regional activities, especially on ecology, hydrology and geology, for consultation and exchange of experiences.

26. Within the framework of the ongoing cooperation between UNESCO and ALECSO, several meetings and workshops were jointly organized in the Arab region around themes such as groundwater protection, the biosphere reserves and sustainable development, hydrology, hydraulic engineering and river basins, and the use of remote sensing and geographical information systems to observe and combat desertification. Since 1995, UNESCO has cooperated with ALECSO in the development and dissemination of the UNESCO statistical analysis software, called Internationally developed Data Analysis and Management Software (IDAMS).

27. UNESCO also cooperates with the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA), with whom it reached an agreement to strengthen cooperation in training activities for journalists. FANA will be invited to send representatives to a UNESCO workshop on the Internet and the work of news agencies, to be organized in late 2000.

28. The Arab State Broadcasting Union (ASBU), a specialized agency of the League, has been cooperating with UNESCO in the "Screens without frontiers" project by contributing a number of programmes from the Arab States to the project. The International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) Council, at its twentieth session in March 2000, approved US$ 45,000 for a project submitted by ASBU and designed to strengthen its programme distribution mechanism and enhance the quality of video and audio productions. UNESCO/IPDC has provided funds for a number of regional and country-specific projects in member States of the League.

J. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

29. UNHCR and the League are pursuing efforts, both at a bilateral level and within the framework of the United Nations system, to strengthen their cooperation in areas related to refugees and global humanitarian issues of common concern. These efforts resulted in the signing on 27 June 2000 of a cooperation agreement by UNHCR and the League. The conclusion of the agreement will pave the way for the organization of a regional (informal) conference on refugees and migration in the Arab region (excluding Palestinians); collaboration between UNHCR and ALECSO to identify areas of educational assistance to refugees; strengthening UNHCR cooperation with other specialized institutions of the League in areas of common concern; convening of seminars on refugee law and basic principles of international protection for government officials, non-governmental organizations and others jointly identified by the two organizations; and the exchange of expertise, documents and reports regarding issues of common concern.

K. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

30. Given the industrial mandate of both UNIDO and AIDMO, a specialized institution of the League, the bulk of regional activities deployed by UNIDO in the Arab countries are implemented in cooperation with AIDMO, within the framework of a joint communiqué signed in Vienna in December 1999.

31. UNIDO and AIDMO met at UNIDO's headquarters on 30 May 2000 to discuss the first phase of a draft project, "Strengthening and building capacity of AIDMO and its technological information exchange system". It was agreed that an expert group meeting and a seminar on new technologies should be organized and that UNIDO staff should assist AIDMO in organizing Techmart/Intechmart events within an agreed time-frame. UNIDO and AIDMO have agreed to consider activities for joint implementation in other areas related to establishing a regional information system and a pollution prevention programme and setting up a "Regional cleaner production centre".

32. Steps were taken to ensure that cooperation between UNIDO, the League and its specialized institutions are strengthened in important areas related to the development of managerial entrepreneurship, through the training and upgrading of skills of a large number of local entrepreneurs. The cooperation supports productive investment and absorption of technology; capacity-building programmes on technology acquisition; negotiation and technology management; development of small and medium-scale industries through policies, subcontracting and partnership; networking; and basic technical support; assistance in development of private-sector institutions to provide support services; investment and technology promotion and ecologically sustainable and economic industrial energy.

L. International Civil Aviation Organization

33. ICAO maintains close liaison with the League on matters relating to civil aviation, particularly through the ICAO regional office in Cairo, in order to ensure the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation in the region. ICAO works closely with the Arab Civil Aviation Commission (ACAC), a

specialized organization of the League. On 29 November 1999, letters of cooperation between ICAO and ACAC were signed at ICAO headquarters. ICAO participates on a regular basis in ACAC meetings, including the annual General Assembly. ICAO supported an ACAC seminar on the implementation of communications, navigation and surveillance/air traffic management (CNS/ATM) systems (Rabat, February 1999). Also, ACAC and ICAO prepared and submitted, in March 1999, two technical cooperation projects: the first, on the planning and implementation of CNS/ATM systems in the Arab world, with a total budget of approximately $500,000; the second, on the restructuring of civil aviation facilities in Arab countries, with a total cost estimated at $370,000. Both projects are under review by ACAC for funding and implementation.

34. An ICAO aviation security seminar for the Middle East region (Beirut, 9-12 November 1999) was attended by 81 delegates from 21 States, 11 airlines and 4 international organizations. It was the third seminar held in the region over a period of two years. Furthermore, an aviation security seminar was also held in Morocco (22-26 May 2000) with 185 participants from 40 States and 3 regional organizations. Moreover, members of the League benefited from several training courses/workshops held in the ICAO subregional aviation security training centres in Casablanca and Amman from 1998 to 2000.

35. The third meeting of the Middle East Traffic Forecasting Group (Cairo, 8-12 November 1999), with 10 participants from five Middle East States discussed methodologies for the development of forecasts from flight information region data and additional forecast requirements requested by various sub-groups of ICAO.

M. International Fund for Agricultural Development

36. The level of indirect cooperation with IFAD has been mainly bilateral, between the League's affiliate institutions such as the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Bank for African Economic Development, the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD).

37. IFAD supported 74 projects in 13 League countries (including two in the West Bank and Gaza), under its Regular Programme and the Special Programme for Africa. IFAD's total contribution amounts to $3.629 billion. This represents about 15 per cent of all projects approved, and 17 per cent of all IFAD's loans made to date. IFAD has worked with the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development in seven areas or countries (West Bank and Gaza, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Oman and Yemen) on a total of 15 projects. The Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development contributes $292 million. In addition IFAD co-financed with the Arab Bank for African Economic Development, a development finance institution of the League, one project in Zimbabwe.

38. In addition to designing and financing projects, IFAD provides technical assistance grants, largely — but not exclusively — in support of adaptive research in areas of special relevance to smallholders, the transfer of appropriate technologies, and networking. Grants worth $8.8 million have been supported by IFAD, mainly through and in cooperation with the two leading League institutions, AOAD and ACSAD.

N. International Labour Organization

39. ILO maintained close cooperation with the League and particularly with its specialized agency, the Arab Labour Organization (ALO), by conducting joint activities and coordinating work pertaining to issues of common interest. The two organizations signed a memorandum of understanding in March 2000, with respect to employment in the Palestinian Territories. It is designed to promote regular and close consultations and dialogues with the concerned parties in the Arab region, including ILO constituents, in particular the Palestinian Authority and the pertinent regional and international organizations. The memorandum refers to collaboration, in particular, in the fields of labour administration, employment policies, vocational training and guidance, occupational safety and health, labour codes, social security, information, and workers' education. Particular importance will be attached to efforts for securing adequate levels of funding from donors for joint activities between ILO and the League and its specialized agency ALO, and for establishing a funds-in-trust.

40. Two coordination meetings were held during the period under review to discuss ways and means to enhance collaboration and to establish a programme of joint activities with ALO. ILO and the ALO Institute on Occupational Health and Safety in Damascus maintained close working relations for carrying out joint activities, including seminars and workshops and translation, into Arabic, of ILO publications.

41. ILO and ALO also started work on a database on labour market information in the Arab region, utilizing ILO's key indicators of the labour market. ILO continued to provide technical and financial assistance to the Regional Arab Programme for Labour Administration of ALO.

O. International Monetary Fund

42. Cooperation between IMF and the League and its specialized agencies is limited. In late 1999, the League expressed interest in the IMF's training and technical assistance opportunities in national accounts, and the IMF Statistics Department suggested holding a joint seminar with the League on the topic in 2001 or 2002. In the context of its ongoing study on trade relations among the Arab Al Mashreq countries, the Middle Eastern Department of IMF recently requested information and reports from the League on the status of the Pan-Arab Free Trade Zone.

P. International Telecommunication Union

43. During the period under review, ITU, through its regional office for the Arab States and Arab States Unit, maintained its cooperation with the League. Besides participating with the League in a number of meetings, task forces and seminars, ITU continued to cooperate with the League in developing telecommunication in the Arab region and to exchange information.

Q. United Nations Population Fund

44. UNFPA provided the League, and particularly its Department of Social Affairs, with substantial technical, institutional and financial assistance on conducting basic demographic analyses, issuing publications, developing a data bank and disseminating information, through support to the Population Research Unit. Furthermore, in the context of its regional programme, UNFPA supported the Pan-Arab Child and Maternal Health Survey, carried out in 10 Arab countries, which was superseded this year by a more comprehensive reproductive health survey, the Pan-Arab Family Health Survey (PAPFAM).

45. The League, with continuous support from UNFPA, plays a role in reinforcing regional coordination in population matters, assists in establishing a network among national population policy committees, helps to develop effective regional population policies that are in harmony with cultural and ethical values and rights, and strengthens complementarity of action among the national population councils and other concerned bodies to address issues of high relevance to the Arab region. Such issues include the implications of social and economic development and reforms and globalization on the quality of life of the Arab population. The Population Research Unit, with continuous support from UNFPA, could play an important role in assisting countries in the region to share, analyse, disseminate and apply population research findings and to design and implement follow-up strategies to achieve the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and other conference plans of action. The PAPFAM programme will generate the reproductive health indicators necessary for monitoring success in achieving the ICPD goals.

R. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

46. Cooperation remained close between UNRWA and the League during the period under review. UNRWA maintains contact with the League secretariat in Cairo and with the Permanent Observer of the League in New York, participates in regular sectoral meetings organized by the League, and seeks to foster cooperation between its officials and the Arab League secretariat at various levels and in various forums.

47. High-level contacts between UNRWA and the League included a meeting between the Commissioner-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Palestine Affairs at League headquarters in Cairo in January 2000. The Commissioner-General also met the

League's overseers of refugee affairs during their meeting at the League headquarters, also in January 2000. The ninth annual joint meeting between UNRWA and the League's Council of Educational Affairs for the Children of Palestine (Cairo, November 1999) reviewed educational services offered to Palestine refugees in the host countries and issues facing the UNRWA education programme. UNRWA's Director of Education also attended a meeting between the United Nations and the League on "Youth and employment" (Beirut, 23-25 May 2000).

48. UNRWA continued to benefit from the generous financial support of the League and its continuing efforts to urge donors to increase voluntary contributions to UNRWA. In 1999, League member States contributed $9.6 million in cash and in kind to the UNRWA regular budget and extrabudgetary special assistance programmes. UNRWA's critical financial situation, as well as its role, were the subject of considerable discussion in League meetings during the period under review. The League reiterated its support for UNRWA humanitarian activities, expressed concern over the repeated funding shortfalls faced by the Agency and their implications for Palestinian refugees and the host authorities, and stressed the importance of increased contributions to the Agency by the international community.

S. World Bank

49. Cooperation and coordination between the World Bank and the League continues to be close and fruitful. The World Bank participates in almost all of the general meetings on cooperation, as well as in other thematic meetings, between the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and the League. Beyond that, the World Bank has specifically cooperated with the League in several other areas, by providing World Bank research papers and other reports and publications to the League specialized agencies, and through continued collaboration with the League's specialized agencies on important developmental (social and economic) issues, cooperation on matters related to the Pan-Arab Free Trade Zone and other issues concerning trade in general, and participation of staff from the League's specialized agencies in World Bank workshops and seminars.

T. World Food Programme

50. The World Food Programme and the League have initiated the process of formalizing arrangements for cooperation between the two organizations. A draft memorandum of cooperation between the two is being reviewed and will be finalized in the near future.

51. The context for cooperation between the two organizations is provided by WFP's ongoing operations in 14 of the League countries and the presence of several funding and League-affiliated technical organs with whom fruitful partnerships could be built, at both the policy and operational levels. WFP operations in League countries assist nearly 10 million poor and food-insecure people, involving over half a billion United States dollars worth of resources. Its emergency, relief and recovery operations assist nearly 8 million people, while its development projects help about 2 million people. In order to improve the effectiveness of these operations, WFP will be seeking participation of the technical and financial organs of the League, particularly the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Desert Lands and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

U. World Health Organization

52. Close collaboration continues between the WHO regional office in Alexandria and the League, in particular, with the Council of Arab Ministers of Health. The WHO Regional Director has participated in all the regular meetings of the Council, and the WHO Director-General participated in the most recent meeting. The various technical units in the regional office also participated in technical meetings organized by the League, where different technical topics were discussed and several technical reports were presented. During the past year the topics included tobacco control; children's health and children's rights; prevention and control of genetic disorders; industrial pollution; environmental education, advocacy and promotion; health legislation and bioethics; drug production and clinical pharmacy practice; an Arab strategy to strengthen nursing services; control of HIV/AIDS; continued collaboration with the Arab Board for Medical Specializations and the Arab Centre for Medical Publications and Literature, and the Arab Strategy to Combat Drug Addiction.

53. WHO is also actively involved in the project on family and community health. The Pan-Arab Project on Family Health is one example of the close collaboration between the WHO regional office and the League. Close collaboration is also ongoing with ALO in the provision of technical support to develop a database on occupational diseases and workplace accidents in member States.

54. Cooperation also continued with the League regarding the environmental impact of industrial activity, air quality guidelines, water conservation, combating desertification and the Arab Plan on the Environment. Working relations are ongoing through the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environmental Affairs and three of its bodies: the Joint Committee of the Programme on Environment Education, Information and Awareness in Arab Countries; and the Standing Committee on the Control of Industrial Pollution in Arab Countries.

V. World Meteorological Organization

55. The ongoing cooperative joint projects with the League and its specialized organizations include the project on sand and dust storms in the Arab region; joint activities for the exchange of meteorological and related data and products, including guidelines on relationships in commercial meteorological activities in the Arab region; activities within the framework of the WMO climate information and prediction services project (CLIPS) in the Arab region; improving the Arabic linguistic services in WMO; activities within the WMO Climate Variability and Predictability Project (CLIVAR); training courses for meteorological personnel from Arab countries at the WMO Regional Meteorological Training Centre in Cairo and at the Syrian Meteorological Department in Damascus; participation of WMO in the annual meetings of the League Permanent Committee on Meteorology, consisting of the Directors of the National Meteorological Service of Arab Countries, and in the meetings of the eight working groups and panels of that Committee.

IV. Sectoral meeting on youth and employment between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

56. As recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/9 and in accordance with the decisions of the 1999 general meeting of the United Nations and the League on cooperation, a sectoral meeting on youth and employment between the United Nations and the League was held at ESCWA headquarters (23-25 May 2000).

57. Representatives of the United Nations system at the meeting included ILO, ESCWA, UNESCO, WHO, the World Bank, UNRWA and the United Nations Secretariat (Department of Political Affairs). From the League, participants included the Arab Labour Organization, the Arab Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, the Arab Administrative Development Organization, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, the Abu-Dhabi Fund for Development, and the League secretariat.

58. The meeting was co-chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the League and the Executive Secretary of ESCWA. The participants discussed 14 working papers, reviewed progress in cooperation in the field of youth and employment, and made a number of recommendations for future action. Consultations on cooperation between the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the League Department of Political and International Affairs were held informally at the meeting.

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United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees

Report of the Secretary-General*

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 54/72 of 6 December 1999.

2. The report includes the substance of responses from Member States and United Nations agencies to the appeal contained in that resolution, together with reference to further action taken by Member States and United Nations agencies in response to the appeal contained in General Assembly resolutions 32/90 F of 13 December 1977, 33/112 C of 18 December 1978, 34/52 C of 23 November 1979, 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, 36/146 H of 16 December 1981, 37/120 D of 16 December 1982, 38/83 D of 15 December 1983, 39/99 D of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D of 16 December 1985, 41/69 D of 3 December 1986, 42/69 D of 2 December 1987, 43/57 D of 6 December 1988, 44/47 D of 8 December 1989, 45/73 D of 11 December 1990, 46/46 D of 9 December 1991, 47/69 D of 14 December 1992, 48/40 D of 10 December 1993, 49/35 D of 9 December 1994, 50/28 D of 6 December 1995, 51/127 of 13 December 1996, 52/60 of 10 December 1997 and 53/49 of 3 December 1998. By these resolutions, the Assembly appealed to all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to augment special allocations for grants and scholarships to Palestine refugees; invited the relevant specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue, within their respective spheres of competence, to extend assistance for higher education to Palestine refugee students; and requested the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to act as the recipient and trustee for such special allocations for grants and scholarships and to award them to qualified refugee candidates.

* Replies from Member States and organizations were received after 1 September 2000.

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3. In fiscal year 2000, the Government of Japan awarded 12 fellowships through UNRWA to Palestine refugees who were employed by UNRWA as vocational training staff at the eight vocational training centres in UNRWA's area of operations. These were processed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). A review of this programme from the date of its inception in 1985 until 2000 shows that a total of 175 scholarships were offered by the Government of Japan, of which 163 have been processed. In 1989, the Government of Japan contributed $1 million towards the UNRWA university scholarship programme for secondary school graduates. The recipients were Palestine refugee students from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Between 1993 and 1999, 148 students graduated from this programme in a wide range of disciplines, while 14 students were still pursuing their university studies in the academic year 1999/2000. The Government of Japan contributed an additional $400,000 in each of the years 1992, 1993 and 1994, $500,000 in 1995 and $600,000 in each of the years 1996 and 1997, to be spent over a five-year period, towards the UNRWA university scholarship programme for secondary school graduates from UNRWA's area of operations. The recipients were Palestine refugee students. In 1998, the Government of Japan contributed $71,000 to the university scholarship programme. This contribution was used in 1998/99 to cover the costs of the awards for 111 continuing students, out of the 154 hitherto funded by the UNRWA General Fund budget, the funding of which had been frozen owing to the financial problems facing UNRWA. Funding of the awards for the remaining 43 scholars was covered from savings from previous Japanese contributions realized as a consequence of the early graduation of some students and the failure of others. In 1999, owing to the cancellation of the portion of the university scholarship fund that had been financed from UNRWA's General Fund budget, and the fact that funding from donors to finance the subprogramme was not forthcoming, UNRWA's Education Department used funds already available from the Japanese contribution to finance the studies of most of the students through their graduation. A total of 471 recipients participated in the programme in the scholastic year 1999/2000, while 227 students graduated and 15 failed in the period 1995-1999. These awards, while not specifically provided in response to the General Assembly resolution, are in keeping with its spirit and intention.

4. The Government of Switzerland contributed $1,703,581 between 1989 and 1996 and an additional $338,000 in 1997 to the UNRWA scholarship programme for secondary school graduates. Of the 315 students who benefited from part of the 1997 Swiss contribution for one year only, 67 graduated in 1998, 7 failed and 87 were granted scholarships in 1998/99 from savings realized from previous Swiss contributions, while the remaining 154 continuing students were financed in 1998/99 from other sources (see para. 3). In 1999, owing to the cancellation of a portion of the university scholarship fund financed from UNRWA's General Fund budget and the fact that financing was not forthcoming from donors to fund the subprogramme, UNRWA's Education Department used funds already available from the Swiss contribution to finance the graduation of the majority of students. The number of students from the five fields in UNRWA's area of operations who were still pursuing their university studies in the academic year 1999/2000 was 188, including 19 who benefited from part of the 1997 Swiss contribution. Between 1993 and 1999, 255 students graduated and 2 students failed.

5. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as part of its long-standing agreement with UNRWA and within the framework of its regular programme of scholarships for Palestinians, granted 25 scholarships (21 to male and 4 to female students) during the biennium 1999/2000.

6. In 1999/2000, the World Health Organization (WHO) provided a total of 55 fellowships/study tours for qualified Palestinian candidates in various specializations totalling 73 months of study, all of which have been processed.

7. The United World Colleges (UWC) have now established their own selection committee in the area and did not offer any scholarships through UNRWA for the school year 1997/98. One scholarship was offered for 1998/99 and one for 1999/2000 by Lester B. Pearson, UWC of the Pacific, of Canada, and was processed. A further scholarship was offered for 2000/01 and is being processed.

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Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Note by the Secretary-General*

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Roberto Garretón (Chile), pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/179 and Commission on Human Rights decision 2000/15, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2000/248.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/248, sect. C, para. 1, this report is being submitted on 20 September 2000 so as to include as much updated information as possible.

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Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, submits his fourth preliminary report on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire) to the General Assembly, pursuant to Assembly resolution 54/179 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/15. The report covers incidents that occurred up to 25 August.

B. Activities and administrative obstacles

2. The Special Rapporteur participated in the special session of the Security Council, held in January 2000 to consider the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, convinced that human rights matters cannot be separated from the settlement of conflicts, whose root cause is the violation of human rights. The Carlsson report on United Nations responsibility in the Rwanda genocide, which concluded that the failure to heed the report of a Commission on Human Rights rapporteur had been one of the main reasons for the genocide, had already been published.

3. In order to attend the special session of the Security Council, the Special Rapporteur had to reduce the length of his only visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to only 10 days and limit his consultations to just one in Geneva, where there are few Congolese refugees.

4. The only assistance which the Special Rapporteur received was from an extremely efficient assistant in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who, however, also has responsibility for four other States.

5. The Ambassador of the United States of America to the United Nations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the leaders of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD) and of the Mouvement de libération du Congo (MLC), ambassadors in Kinshasa and the heads of United Nations agencies expressed concern at the fact that the Special Rapporteur had paid only one brief visit to the country, which they felt would affect his credibility.

6. During his mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (13-26 August 2000), the Special Rapporteur visited Kinshasa. He also visited Goma, Bukavu and Kisangani, which are under the control of RCD/Goma faction and Gbadolité, which was captured by MLC. Both the Government and rebel authorities permitted him to work and conduct his interviews freely. Obstacles were encountered, however, when he attempted to visit the military and police detention centres in Kinshasa and Bukavu. He also had meetings with or reviewed the reports of political parties and of intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations (see E/CN.4/2000/42, annexes II-V).

7. The Special Rapporteur transmitted 22 communications and urgent actions to the Government, including 86 allegations of violations of human rights. Three of these were acknowledged and one reply received.

8. RCD authorities submitted two extensive reports to the Special Rapporteur, which the latter welcomes.

C. Pending activities and investigations

Joint mission to investigate allegations of massacres committed in 1996

9. In paragraph 5 (b) of its resolution 2000/15, the Commission on Human Rights renewed the mandate of the joint mission established by its resolution 1997/58 to investigate violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in the east of the former Zaire between 1996 and 1997.

10. The Government also requested the Secretary-General to carry out an investigation into the events that occurred in the locality of Ituri (letter of 8 February 2000) as well as an investigation into allegations of the deaths of 15 women who were buried alive or burnt in Mwenga, situated in RCD-controlled territory. Both the Government and RCD requested special investigations into the Katogota massacre. Because of the prevailing insecurity and lack of financial resources, these investigations are still pending.

D. International obligations of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

11. Contrary to the public announcement, the Democratic Republic of the Congo did not accede to the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions. The Government is late in submitting 10 reports to treaty bodies. It has not completed a single report nor replied to the communications addressed to it by the respective treaty bodies.

E. Reprisals against individuals who cooperated with the United Nations

12. The Special Rapporteur denounces the reprisals taken against the following persons who cooperated with him during his visits or who submitted reports to him, pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/20.

13. In RCD-controlled territory: Monsignor Emmanuel Kataliko, Archbishop of Bukavu, who had been interviewed by the Special Rapporteur, was detained and subsequently exiled to Butembo, on 12 February 2000. Collete Kitoga was arrested in Goma upon her return from the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

14. In territory controlled by the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie/Mouvement de libération (RCD/ML), Sylvain Mudimbi Masudi was detained in Benin for attending the session of the Commission on Human Rights and was transferred to Uganda.

II. The various armed conflicts

15. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is bedevilled by various armed conflicts, some international, others internal and yet other internal conflicts that have been internationalized (see E/CN.4/2000/42, para. 20). Participants in these conflicts include at least eight national armies[1] and 21 irregular armed groups. All of these forces are operating entirely in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has seen its population decimated and its wealth extracted by occupying and rebel forces.[2]

A. The conflict between the Government and RCD

16. The conflict between the Government and RCD began on 2 August 2000, following Rwanda's invasion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is the most serious of the conflicts, not only because of its political and economic repercussions but also because it restricts the enjoyment of the civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights of the population of the entire region.

17. On one side are the armies of Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and RCD/Goma faction, together with its paramilitary group Local Defence Unity. Allegations have been made of the involvement of Interahamwe deserters and Rwandan Hutu prisoners, who were released and sent to the front. The mineral riches of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Katanga, Orientale province and Kasai Oriental have been depleted by foreign troops and RCD.

18. For its part, the Government has relied for its defence on counter-rebel militias: it has open and confirmed ties to the Mai-Mai,[3] a group that is gaining in popularity with a local population tired of being subjected to the control of forces they consider foreign. It also has informal ties to other "counter rebels": RCD deserters, Rwandan Bahutu Interahamwe, members of the former Rwandan Armed Forces (FAR), and Burundian Bahutu, among others.

19. The violence is unleashed by the attacks of the counter-rebels against military forces which they consider to be aggressors. The response of the Rwandan army, RCD and the Burundian army is to attack the defenceless civilian population, committing indescribable massacres, such as those that took place at Katogota, on 15 May 2000, Kamanyola, Lurbarika and Luberizi, or the massacre in July 2000 on the Lusenda-Lubuma highway (see E/CN.4/2000/42), as well as the events — denied, as others have been, by RCD/Goma faction — that took place in Mwenga in November 1999, in which 15 women were tortured and buried alive (see S/2000/330, para. 61).

20. Another factor contributing to the violence is the antagonism between RCD and Banyamulenge, who are fed up at being the target of the resentment of Congolese over the abuses committed by the Armée patriotique rwandaise (APR).

21. By its resolution 1304 (2000), the Security Council demanded that Uganda and Rwanda, which have violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, withdraw all their forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The withdrawal should be followed by reciprocal actions by the other parties, which have not taken any such action.

B. The conflict between the Government and MLC

22. In Équateur province, the Congolese Armed Forces (FAC), supported by Zimbabwe and Namibia, are fighting MLC, which is supported by Uganda. It is in this province that the parties have shown the least respect for the ceasefire, and indeed the rebel leader has long maintained that he felt under no obligation to observe it. President Kabila contends that MLC has rendered the ceasefire agreement null and void.

C. Clashes between Uganda and Rwanda in Kisangani

23. Once again there were clashes in Kisangani, the third largest town in the country, previously controlled by the two RCD factions and currently controlled by RCD/Goma, between the "uninvited armies" of Rwanda and Uganda (supported by RCD/MLI). The worst clashes occurred on 5 and 9 May and on 8 June 2000. The causes are economic (both armies want the huge wealth of Orientale province) as well as political (control of the territory).

24. During the confrontations, particularly the most recent one, not only combatants but also close to 1,000 Congolese civilians were killed, thousands were wounded and much of the town was destroyed, as the Special Rapporteur in the field has confirmed.

25. Calls for a ceasefire, including from the Security Council, went unheeded and moves towards demilitarization were disregarded the very next day. Only the latest one seems to be holding.

D. Tribal conflict between Balendu and Bahema

26. The Ugandan occupation of the Ituri region has led to conflict between the Bahema (of Ugandan origin) and the Balendu, who have been in the region longer. With support from the Ugandan soldiers, the authorities appointed by them and RCD/ML, the Bahema have seized land from the Balendu who have no support. Except for some incidents in 1911, 1923 and 1955, these two ethnic groups had lived without major difficulties for nearly three centuries. The current confrontations, which flared up again in August 2000, have resulted in some 8,000 deaths and the displacement of some 50,000 people.

E. Ceasefire agreements and observance thereof

27. Following tremendous pressure from the international community (see E/CN.4/2000/42, para. 18 and annex X), the parties concluded a ceasefire agreement in Lusaka, in 1999. They did not abide by the agreement and, as a result, the timetable had to be adjusted (Lusaka, 12 February 2000, Kampala, 1 March and 8 April, at which time it was agreed that hostilities would cease from 14 April 2000). Only the last one was observed, except in the fighting between MLC and RCD. In spite of everything, the belligerents have, on the whole, kept to the positions they held in August 1999.

28. The Lusaka agreement provided for the deployment of a United Nations force — the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) — of some 5,537 observers and security personnel in the territory in conflict and for the demobilization and disarming of the armed groups. MONUC quite rightly maintains that disarming the groups, if they do not disarm themselves, is not part of its mandate but a matter for the signatories.

29. Inexplicably, the Government received MONUC aggressively and blamed the United Nations for the death of Lumumba back in 1961.[4] MONUC continued to be attacked verbally and in fact (pro-Government demonstrations in June 2000) for its lack of objectivity, based on the fact that its reports are said to give more importance to the Mai-Mai and Interahamwe attacks on

the RCD forces and their allies than to the latter's counterattacks on civilians.

30. Despite all the statements to the contrary and despite the conversations between Presidents Kabila and Kagame (Eldoret, Kenya) and the influence of Kenya, Zambia, South Africa, Algeria, Nigeria, Botswana, Mozambique, Mali, the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations and others, the parties all seem bent on winning the war by military means.

31. A meeting of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on 14 August 2000 failed because Kinshasa opposed any solution, feeling that since the circumstances of the conflict had changed the Lusaka agreement should be adjusted. A proposed change was submitted to the other parties on 23 August 2000.

F. Impact of the war

32. The war has destroyed the country. More than half the population has been affected. All public moneys are being diverted to the war effort. There have been terrible epidemics. Only 9 per cent of all health districts have refrigerators for keeping medicines. Since it is impossible to cultivate the land due to the war, 17 per cent of the population (14 million people) are now affected by food insecurity, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The number of sheques (street children) has risen alarmingly.

33. The Congolese people have looked on helplessly while those whom it calls aggressors have taken away all its wealth and caused enormous ecological damage.

34. There are more than 1,300,000 internally displaced persons, many of whom are without any assistance. The vast majority come from the occupied territories in the east. Their situation was made worse by the attacks carried out in July 2000 on the displaced persons camps in Sake and Uvira, both by the Mai-Mai and by Rwandan soldiers; these attacks forced many non-governmental organizations to suspend their relief activities.

35. If one includes those who sought asylum when Mobutu was in power, there are Congolese refugees all over the world. Most recently, due to the fighting between RCD and MLC, there are reported to be some 72,000 refugees in Congo Brazzaville.

36. Congolese Tutsi who had sought refuge in Rwanda are returning to Goma with support from RCD through one non-governmental organization, but against the wishes of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which fears that this may lead to increased violence.

G. Situation of persons at risk

37. These are the Batutsi or people who look like Tutsi living in the territory under government control, who fear reprisals from the population for the "Rwandan aggression". At the start of the war, the Government called for their elimination (see E/CN.4/1999/31, para. 45), but later it opted for a position of protection and even established protection centres (not detention centres as alleged by the Rwandan Government and RCD) with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and foreign Governments. This policy has made it possible for many people to be repatriated or to take refuge in Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi and others have found refuge in Cameroon, Benin, the United States or Canada. In 2000, there were 2,796 people living in the protection camps; when the Special Rapporteur visited the camps in Kinshasa, the number had fallen to 299.

III. Political development and democratization in Government-controlled territory

38. The power structure described in all reports since 1997 remains intact; tremendous power (executive, legislative and much of the judicial power) remains concentrated in the hands of President Kabila (see E/CN.4/1998/65, para. 32 to 37; E/CN.4/1999/31, para. 17 and E/CN.4/2000/42, paras. 32, 33 and 127).

39. The Government has made us move towards democracy; according to all the indications, it does not wish to do so. The only thing that has changed is that the "national debate", which the President instituted in 1999 but which was never accepted by civil society, has ended. Although the main moral, religious,[5] political and civil institutions are clamouring for democracy — in the sense of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/47 — and demanding the dialogue provided for at Lusaka as a means thereto, President Kabila has shown no interest in the matter.

40. Indeed, the President has always rejected the national dialogue. The facilitator designated by OAU, the distinguished former president of Botswana, Ketumile Masire, was accepted and later rejected by the Government; the latter has consistently prevented him from fulfilling his delicate mission; (it has levelled vague charges of "duplicity of roles" against him; prevented him from travelling to towns under rebel control; rejected his work plan; failed to attend, and prohibited political parties and civil society from attending, the preparatory meeting in Benin; withheld tickets and passports; refused to receive him, closed his office and so forth).

41. In addition, the ban on political parties and civil organizations that do not meet the draconian conditions set by Decree Law 194 and Decree Law 195 (see E/CN.4/2000/42, para. 33 and 70) remains; persons who are not members of a party constituted in accordance with the new law are not permitted to make political speeches; pro-Government parties (the only ones recognized) have been established; and all political activity has been suppressed, resulting in hundreds of arrests and personal attacks (Union pour la démocratie et la progrès social (UDPS), 26 July 2000); persecution by the People's Power Committees (CPP) (Parti Lumumbiste unifié (PALU), 17 January 2000); unlawful searches (MNC/L, 22 April 2000); the discredited CPP remain (the election of members failed due to lack of interest on the part of the population), as does the Force d'auto-défense populaire (FAP) militia; the agreements regarding the democratization of the "national consultation" which had been called for by the religious leaders and which demanded that the Lusaka agreements and the inter-Congolese dialogue be respected have been rejected, limited dialogues have been convened (January, February and May 2000) but are limited to supporters, etc.

42. On 21 August 2000, notwithstanding the Lusaka accords, a Constituent and Legislative Assembly was established; under the sole direction of the President and without any consultation and without consensus, it was decided that the Assembly's headquarters would be in Lubumbashi. Although a few opponents were called, in their personal capacity, the Assembly was not accepted by the country's best known leaders. In any event, its mandate is purely consultative and it in no way diminishes the absolute powers of the President.

IV. Political development and democratization in territory controlled by rebel movements

Territory controlled by RCD

43. In the territory controlled by RCD, the Congolese people's feelings of terror and humiliation not only persist but are growing stronger (see document E/CN.4/2000/42, paras. 43-47, 125 and 133). This explains the increasing popularity of the Mai-Mai.

44. RCD is the only party, and it holds absolute power to such an extent that the provincial governors and heads of public services preside over their own RCD cells. Party officials deny that theirs is a "State party", saying that it is not a party but a movement of trade unions, and that pluralism will come about eventually. In the Special Rapporteur's view, this explanation only confirms that the party is, in reality, State-run. No efforts towards greater pluralism are in evidence. The paramilitary "local defence units" are a contributing factor in the considerable feeling of insecurity.

45. All forms of dissidence are suppressed; any criticism is considered an incitement to national hatred or genocide and the whole population is suspected of collaborating with the Mai-Mai. A typical example is the absurd expulsion of Archbishop Emmanuel Kataliko from Bukavu for his Christmas message, which was considered to be an incitement to genocide. The Special Rapporteur has read and studied the text closely, and he can safely say that there is not a single sentence, word or idea, taken in isolation or in context, that could be interpreted, even with the worst of intentions, in this way.

46. Attempts to humiliate the population continue (see document E/CN.4/2000/42, para. 46). As a new way of castigating the Nyndu tribe, already punished by the horrible Kasika massacre in 1998 (see document E/CN.4/1999/31, para. 56), RCD/Goma has taken land from them in order to create a Minembwe territory. RCD has provided the facilitator, Ketumile Masire, with a list of "opposition parties", such as the Front uni de l'opposition non armée (FRONUAR), and others that exist in Kinshasa without representatives in the region.

47. The population recognizes and defends the guerrilla activities of the Mai-Mai, blaming "Rwandan soldiers" instead for the violence.

48. The population's opposition is illustrated by various acts of protest, such as the general strikes in Bukavu by students on 24 January 2000 and from 31 January to 6 February 2000; a demonstration in Kisangani by women on 31 January 2000, in Goma, on 14 February 2000; in Uvira, Kindu and Bukavu (a week-long beer strike successfully carried out in April 2000), among others.

49. RCD has frequently split into factions (see document E/CN.4/2000/42, para. 43), and efforts at reunification are being made not among Congolese leaders, who appear to be leading the factions, but between the Presidents of Uganda and Rwanda (November 1999; January 2000). In March 2000, three RCD/Goma leaders defected and were later accused of spying by Kabila; subsequently, other internal dissidents broke away and formed RCD/National. The Banyamulenge expressed their concern about massacres of the local population in July 2000, which made their own situation worse, and they organized marches in Bukavu and Uvira.

50. In April and August 2000, attempts to depose the President of RCD/Bunia were defeated through the influence, once again, of the President of Uganda and his army.

51. The small RCD/Bunia faction has also taken steps that have stirred up the population, such as supporting the Hema against the Lendu, or the creation of the Kibali-Ituri province to favour the former.

Territory controlled by MLC

52. In the territory controlled by MLC, the people do not live in terror, but there is one-party rule. The representative of civil society to Benin was appointed by MLC.

V. Human rights violations committed by the Government[6]

Right to life

Death penalty

53. The Government, which says it is against the death penalty, made a number of announcements (on 10 December 1999 and 27 January 2000) to the Special Rapporteur on the suspension of this penalty (see document E/CN.4/2000/42, paras. 49 and 50), but continued to apply it, at least until February 2000, when 19 persons were executed. The President of the Military Court reported that it continues to be enforced "on the front". The Special Rapporteur visited 41 persons who are awaiting a pardon, which the President has promised to grant.

Enforced disappearances

54. The number of reported disappearances has declined. None of the cases recorded in previous years, however, have been cleared up. Nicolas Bantu, Aimé Ngobe and Serge Itala have been missing since their arrest in December 1999.

Death by torture

55. Given the systematic and habitual practice of torture, deaths have been reported, such as that of Kalombo Ilunga in July 2000; he had been detained by the police in Lubumbashi, and his corpse was found in the morgue.

Political assassinations

56. None have been reported.

Right to physical and psychological integrity

57. Torture is brutally and systematically practised, especially by GSSP but also by the National Information Agency (ANR). Tolerance of the existence of secret detention centres, lacking any control whatsoever, contributes to this scourge. One particularly well-known centre is that of the Litho Moboti Group (GLM); its commander was detained on 9 March 2000 but unfortunately was freed days later, with no charges having been filed. Torture is facilitated by the fact that the Detection of Unpatriotic Activities Police (DEMIAP) has no public register of detainees,

and in the provincial police inspectorate (formerly Circo) all detainees are not placed in a single centre, as the Special Rapporteur observed. Representatives of the Human Rights Office of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are not authorized to enter any centre that is not a prison.

Right to personal liberty

58. This is the right most often threatened. Journalists, lawyers, religious leaders, human rights workers, politicians, trade union leaders and others are detained, generally on the grounds of violating the ban on political activities or of colluding with the rebels. The times vary from a few days to years. Often, no charges are filed against the prisoner, although sometimes detainees are transferred to the Court of State Security and the Military Court. No one escapes the risk of jail, not even retired judges (for example, the former President of the Supreme Court) or active judges (a military magistrate), ambassadors (the representative to Kenya), ministers (six were detained on 2 June 2000) or other officials at this level, and even a member of the Constitutional and Legislative Assembly.

59. A positive step has been the admittedly partial, discretional and conditional amnesty declared on 19 February 2000, by which some 300 prisoners were belatedly released. In July 2000, 800 soldiers were also released, to be sent to the front.

Right to enter and leave the country

60. It is difficult for opponents to leave the country, since their passports and airline tickets are often confiscated. Similar problems affect journalists, priests and human rights activists. Representatives of civil society were prevented from travelling to Benin to the preparatory meeting for the national dialogue provided for in the Lusaka Agreement.

Right to due process

61. The criticisms of the Military Court concerning procedural irregularities (summary judgements, sole jurisdiction and others) are still absolutely valid. (See documents E/CN.4/1999/31, paras. 90, 91 and 137, and E/CN.4/2000/42, paras. 63, 122 and 137.) Detainees are held for a long time awaiting trial.

62. One indication of the lack of independence of the judiciary, which is referred to in Commission on Human Rights resolution 200/42, is that the Procurator-General of the Court of State Security was held in prison for 30 days for refusing to approve a raid on the Belgian Embassy. The attorney-general was also detained.

63. Owing to the lack of guaranties, the 15 defenders of an independence fighter refused, with his agreement, to defend him, and he was sentenced to four years of hard labour.

Freedom of expression and opinion

64. The Special Rapporteur has transmitted communications to the Government from more than 30 detained journalists, who were tried and/or convicted by the Military Court or frightened away from practising their profession. Mobutu's draconian laws are still in full force. The Vice-Minister of Information justifies this by saying "we cannot tolerate traitors", and the President has said that "the law must be obeyed". The main private television station was confiscated in March 2000. Independent media have no access to the authorities.

65. Despite the existence of some newspapers, the judgement is categorical: there is no freedom of expression in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Freedom of association

66. Political parties are still banned, unless they submit to new registration requirements and risk being rejected. Political activity, even making speeches, is prohibited. Dozens of leaders and activists have been detained or prevented from leaving the country or the city where they live, and their headquarters have been attacked and ransacked.

67. Human rights organizations suffer similar treatment. The ban on them has not been lifted.

Economic, social and cultural rights

68. Public employees, except for some in Kinshasa, have still not been paid, and trade union leaders who protest against this are accused of endangering State security. More than a third of the population lack even the basic necessities of life. The real malnutrition rate, according to some sources, is 26 per cent.

69. Serious epidemics have been left untreated because the war uses up most of the country's income.

Situation of women

70. The situation described in previous reports remains unchanged. A new form of discrimination has appeared: women's organizations have lost their voice to a para-State group known as Regroupement des Femmes Congolaises (REFECO), and their employment and educational situation has deteriorated as a result of the war.

71. Sources have told the Special Rapporteur that 8 per cent of women have acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), owing to poverty, lack of education and, especially, sexual contact with Rwandan and Ugandan soldiers, whose countries have a high AIDS rate.

72. Only 24 out of 300 members of the Constitutional and Legislative Assembly are women.

Situation of children

73. The right to education has been greatly curtailed by the war and poverty, resulting in irreparable harm to many children. Violations of children's rights also include child labour in inhumane conditions in the diamond mines.

74. On a more positive note, Decree Law 66 was enacted in June 2000, demobilizing children and other vulnerable groups and creating a commission on demobilization and reintegration.

Freedom of conscience and religion

75. The Special Rapporteur is dealing with this topic for the first time. The Government regards religious congregations as enemies who are allied with rebellion or aggression. Peace messages are viewed with suspicion, and the proclamation of freedom and justice are considered subversive. Presbyterian churches, the Ubangi-Mongola Evangelical Community, the Bundu dia Kongo sect, the Siani and Unification/Cabinda, together with German, Austrian and Belgian priests and a Catholic bishop, have been repressed.

VI. Human rights violations committed in territory occupied by RCD and MLC

Violations in RCD territory

Right to life

Death penalty

76. The Special Rapporteur had welcomed the fact that RCD did not apply the death penalty (see E/CN.4/2000/42, para. 81). Nevertheless, on 17 March 2000, the *Conseil de guerre opérationnelle*, in two proceedings within 24 hours, tried a corporal, who was executed on the spot, and three other persons condemned to death in July 2000 were taken from the prison and never returned.

Political murders

77. Soldiers referred to as "Banyamulenge", "Rwandans", "Ugandans" and "Burundians" have committed countless murders of persons suspected of being members of the Mai-Mai or Interahamwe. Among the victims are priests, Protestant pastors, Baptists, traditional tribal leaders and peaceful citizens. Three youths were murdered simply because they bore tattoos, leading Burundian soldiers to assume that they were members of the Mai-Mai.

Death by torture

78. The frequency and cruelty of torture was mentioned frequently to the Special Rapporteur. One person was arrested and tortured to death for carrying out political activity in Kiwandja (North Kivu) in March 2000.

Right to physical and psychological integrity

79. Most of the complaints of torture involve the police headquarters known as *chien méchant* ("vicious dog") and "Bureau II", which sources say are administered by "Rwandan soldiers" and, in Kisangani and Bunia, by "the Ugandans". It is claimed that Congolese are among the victims, as well as Rwandans transferred from Rwanda. The victims are mainly those suspected of being members of the Mai-Mai and Interahamwe. Representatives of the Human Rights Office in Goma can only visit the jails, like other detention centres. The Special Rapporteur confirmed

that the records of the RCD Sixth Brigade do not account for all inmates.

Right to liberty of person

Arbitrary detention

80. Human rights defenders, leaders of civil society, journalists and members of the clergy have continually been deprived of their freedom and are at constant risk of being detained again. The arrests are aimed at suppressing activities lawful in a democratic society, such as dissidence, criticism, education, culture and freedom of conscience, or are preventive: persons suspected of not being devoted to the RCD authorities are detained because of actions that they might carry out, as occurred, for example, prior to the civil strikes carried out in Goma, Bukavu and elsewhere. Resigning from RCD carries with it the certainty of arrest. The same thing happens in territory occupied by RCD/Bunia, where two high-ranking leaders of RCD/ML were detained and tortured near Bunia in July 2000.

Deportations

81. In Geneva in March 2000, the RCD authorities explained to the Special Rapporteur that there are no cases of deportation of prisoners from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda, Uganda or Burundi and that, at most, prisoners of war are involved. The incidents are more frequent under RCD/Bunia than under RCD/Goma. In any event, the Special Rapporteur emphasizes that, during the period under review, he learned of various cases of human rights defenders and others (traders) detained in Congolese territory and taken to Katuna (Rwanda) or Uganda.

Right to enter and leave one's own country

82. There are lists of persons linked to human rights organizations who have been prevented from leaving RCD-controlled territory; many cannot even leave Kivu. In early March 2000 there were reports of an ordinance which prevents all Congolese from travelling to countries other than Rwanda or Burundi without official permission, which is generally denied. Even members of the Protestant clergy could not travel to a conference in Nairobi in 1999.

Right to due process

83. Generally speaking, defendants are not tried; their release is at the discretion of the authorities. In any event, the most serious breaches of the norms of due process stem from the guarantee of impunity for the massacres, murders and tortures inflicted on those accused of inciting hatred. The so-called, belated prosecution of the person responsible for the deaths of 15 women in Mwenga ended with the flight of the individual who is seen as the main perpetrator and as an emblematic figure because of his ferocity. The fact that those allegedly responsible for the flight are being prosecuted in no way justifies the action.

Right to freedom of expression and opinion

84. There have been no changes with regard to the statements made in document E/CN.4/2000/42, paragraphs 91 to 93. There is no freedom of expression; there are no daily newspapers; Radio Maendeleo was returned to its operators, but has been prohibited from broadcasting political opinion and news.

85. In Kisangani, while Rwandans and Ugandans shared power, the radio stations vehemently incited racial hatred: Liberté, against the Rwandans, and RTNC/Rebelde, against the Ugandans. But the victims are Congolese.

Freedom of association

86. There are, of course, no political parties, except RCD and FROUNAR, for example, which RCD formed prior to the visit of the Facilitator, Ketumile Masire, in May 2000. All political activity is prohibited and punished.

Human rights organizations

87. RCD responded to the report of the Special Rapporteur, claiming that it was established beyond a doubt that the non-governmental organizations in South Kivu were operating with financial support from the Kabila Government and that they are the sources of information for the Special Rapporteur. That point was emphasized during the visit. In fact, the non-governmental organizations are severely persecuted, always on the charge of inciting ethnic hatred, but not a shred of evidence has been presented in this regard. Many defenders have been imprisoned, tortured and threatened and many have had to seek refuge abroad.

Freedom of assembly

88. No allegedly critical gatherings are tolerated, and the protests called *villes mortes* (civil strikes) have been suppressed with arrests and threats.

Economic, social and cultural rights

89. The extremely serious situation throughout the country is particularly serious in the east: malnutrition in Kisangani reportedly affects 30 per cent of adults and 60 per cent of children. Civil servants remain unpaid. The health care system is destroyed and family members usually take turns eating.

Situation of women

90. In addition to the Mwenga incident, mention should be made of the arrests of feminist activities, rapes and beatings of female secondary-school students detained for insisting on the validity of their examinations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and continual cases of rape of women detainees.

Situation of children

91. As in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, RCD is establishing a commission for demobilization of child soldiers. Nevertheless, the Mission has noted that the level of recruitment of children is much higher in the east than under Kabila. An example of this is Nyaleke, near Beni, where Ugandan soldiers are training 10-year-old children.

Freedom of conscience and religion

92. In RCD territory, too, the Catholic and Protestant churches are persecuted because of their messages of peace; this has made it possible to assert that the only thing that unites Rwandans and Ugandans is their hatred of the Christian churches. In the east the majority Catholic Church has been the most persecuted: murders of several priests, banishment of the Archbishop of Bukavu, attacks on convents and parish houses, and so on.

Human rights violations in MLC territory

93. There is minimal information on the region, which has negligible civic activity. There are very few non-governmental organizations and newspapers. The Special Rapporteur spent a few hours visiting the small hamlet of Gbadolite, but was unable to visit other towns in which there are more victims of human rights violations.

VII. Violations of international humanitarian law

A. Violations by the Government, allies and related groups

Government

94. The Government is responsible for the bombings of the Libenge hospital on 27 July 2000; of Gemena and elsewhere, which affected civilian populations; and of aircraft loaded with poliomyelitis vaccines (war against MLC).

Mai-Mai

95. The Government's support for the Mai-Mai makes it responsible for the offences perpetrated by the latter. While, generally speaking, they attack Rwandan and RCD soldiers, they have also committed violence against civilians suspected of collaborating with those whom they regard as the "enemy". The growing popularity which they enjoy among the Congolese does not absolve them of responsibility. Among their acts of brutality are those at Lubero in April 2000, Nyabibwe, Numbi (50 dead) and Kihuha in July 2000.

Interahamwe/ex-FAR combatants

96. The Interahamwe and ex-FAR combatants are responsible for attacks on the civilian population (Loashi, Luhinzi, Rutshuru, Kione, Ngesha and many others). In the villages which they attack they commonly rape women and girls.

Freed Rwandan prisoners

97. It should be noted that freed Rwandan prisoners who had been held in Kinshasa acknowledged that they had been well treated while they had been prisoners of the Zimbabweans, to the point where at least four preferred to stay in Kinshasa rather than return to their homeland.

B. Violations by RCD, RCD/ML, MLC and allied foreign military forces

Components of RCD

98. The population does not distinguish among the various components of RCD, which it identifies as Rwandan soldiers or Banyamulenge.

99. Any attack by members of the Interahamwe, Mai-Mai, and so on is met by totally disproportionate violence; massacres are committed, resulting in many deaths. Mere suspicion of sympathy with the Mai-Mai provokes reprisals against the civilian population: Ngenge (November 1999); Kalehe (December 1999, 23 dead); Kilambo (February 2000, 60 dead); Katogota (May 2000, 40 to 300 dead); Kamanyola, Lurbarika, Luberezi, Cidaho, Uvira, Shabunda; Lusenda-Lubumba (July 2000, 150 dead).

100. Particularly reprehensible is the treatment of prisoners by Rwandan soldiers. The Special Rapporteur visited one Congolese soldier taken prisoner in Katanga who was beaten, tortured, castrated and abandoned, a practice condemned earlier by the Special Rapporteur (see E/CN.4/2000/42, para. 117).

101. Humanitarian assistance has been intercepted and diverted to Congolese Batusti repatriated from Rwanda.

Burundian soldiers

102. Burundian soldiers are accused of killing nine civilians in Sebele in reprisal for a Mai-Mai attack in April 2000.

Ugandan troops

103. Ugandan troops have murdered civilians. The most serious incidents occurred during the Ugandan-Rwandan battle at Kisangani, in whose vicinity, furthermore, they planted antitank and anti-personnel mines.

104. In alliance with the Bahema, they have committed atrocities against civilians (for example, Libi, March 2000, nine dead) and taken civilians prisoner, including children (Walendu Tatsi).

105. Ugandan troops also shelled a boat in which women and children were fleeing the war, causing some 30 deaths; no assistance was given to them.

106. They recruit many child soldiers.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Conclusions

The catastrophe in Central Africa

107. Central Africa is a region of great riches, but its inhabitants are living in extreme poverty. The terrible history of unscrupulous dictators — all of whom, however, had support from abroad — is one of the causes of the catastrophic situation that now exists. Eight national armies and numerous armed groups are involved in the primary war between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, which may rightly be called the first world war in Africa, and nine more armed conflicts are taking place in the same country. Extreme poverty, which existed even prior to the current wards, has reached catastrophic levels that have been further increased by the war. The Congolese people cannot understand why those responsible for their problems, who are members of the international community, do not come to their aid now.

108. The parties, their allies, other African countries, the major Powers, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations have failed to achieve peace since it seems that economic and political interests other than those of the Congolese people are involved in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Congolese are aware of this fact. There can be no peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo without lasting peace in the region. There are historical conflicts and ambitions that require long-term solutions based on respect for principles on which there can be no disagreement: respect for the human rights of all Congolese, justice for those responsible for the crimes against humanity which have been committed and respect for the borders inherited from the colonial era.

The armed conflict

109. None of the parties to the nine conflicts, whether internal, internationalized internal or international, is fully respecting the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, although there has been no significant change in their positions. The Congolese consider the Rwandan, Ugandan and Burundian armies to be "aggressors" rather than as providing support to the rebels. While the activities of the Interahamwe and Mai-Mai are the

primary cause of the violence, it is the armies of Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD) which are causing the greatest damage and which have once again committed terrible massacres of the civilian population. In addition, Rwanda and Uganda have expanded their own conflicts into Congolese territory, causing death and destruction on neighbouring soil.

The occupation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

110. The Special Rapporteur has often been asked whether the occupation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo should be considered permanent. That issue should not even be raised since there can be no justification for the conquest or partition of a country by foreign forces. This is the position stated in the fourth preambular paragraph of Security Council resolution 1304 (2000). In occupied territory, the sense of humiliation and terror described in previous reports still prevails.

Immediate effects of the Special Rapporteur's visit

111. Days prior to the visit, and particularly during his visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, both in Government- and RCD-controlled territory, prisoners were freed or transferred from illegal detention centres to official jails; judicial proceedings that should have begun months previously were opened; sick prisoners were given better medical care and journalists were given greater access to information sources.

Violations of international humanitarian law

112. The most serious incidents were the massacres committed by RCD and Rwandan forces, attacks on civilians during the Rwandan-Ugandan wars and Government bombing of civilian populations in the north.

Human rights

113. In the Government-controlled territory, the rights most affected are political rights (participation, assembly, association and freedom of expression). In RCD- and RCD/ML-controlled territory, the rights most often violated are human rights (life and physical integrity) without prejudice to political freedom. There is insufficient information on the MLC-controlled territory.

Right to democracy

114. Neither the Government authorities nor those of RCD, RCD/ML or MLC have taken any steps towards democracy. The Government continues to reject all dialogue with the national democratic opposition; it persecutes political parties, continues to declare them illegal and punishes their leaders and activists. It rejects the mediator whom it had previously accepted. It is establishing new and illegal structures. In the occupied territories there is only one party, either RCD or MLC. Other parties only appear to exist. Those not in sympathy with RCD have ceased all activities and their leaders have chosen exile. MLC is the only party in the territory it controls.

Human rights advocates

115. They are persecuted by both sides; one considers them to be "in league with the rebels", the other considers them to be "in Kabila's pay" or "Interahamwe or Mai-Mai collaborators".

Death penalty

116. The Government maintains it but has not implemented it since February 2000. RCD, which had never implemented it, began to do so in 2000.

Liberty of person

117. It is constantly violated, and there are many political prisoners on both sides. The Kinshasa amnesty was encouraging, but it did not affect all prisoners and politically-motivated imprisonment of, inter alia, Ministers and other high-level officials has continued.

Freedom of expression

118. There is none. In Government-controlled territory, there are a few newspapers with a limited circulation and journalists are regularly harassed. In RCD-controlled territory there are no opposition newspapers and the few independent radio stations have been shut down, censored and prevented from broadcasting any news programmes other than the official ones.

Torture

119. Torture is practised by all parties and in many instances it has resulted in death.

Right to due process

120. It is not respected by any of the parties. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Military Court, which is the only court in which civilians, journalists and human rights advocates are tried, remains fully functional. Victims of human rights violations are not granted redress, a fact which further confirms impunity. In RCD-controlled territory, the death penalty has been reinstituted through trials of the most summary nature in which no defense is admitted.

Freedom of movement

121. In both Kinshasa and Goma, members of the opposition are prevented from leaving the country and even from movement within it.

122. But the most serious issue is the deportation of Congolese citizens to Rwanda, where, in many cases, all trace of the prisoner is lost.

Freedom of conscience

123. In both sectors, religious persecution has been a constant throughout the year. Bishops, priests and ministers have been arrested, tortured, expelled and murdered. The most emblematic case has been that of the Archbishop of Bukavu, who was expelled from his diocese by RCD.

Persons at risk

124. The Government, with international assistance, has continued to provide protection to people who look like Tutsi in order to prevent reprisals against them, thereby disproving accusations of genocide.

Women and children

125. The situation continues to worsen. The Government and RCD have taken steps to demobilize children, but neither MLC nor the Ugandan troops have done so.

B. Recommendations

The parties in the wars

126. The Special Rapporteur recommends that the parties in the wars should: (a) fully implement the Lusaka Agreement and the necessary agreed adjustments thereto, considering the provisions of Security Council resolution 1304 (2000); (b) cooperate with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC); and (c) put an end to all forms of impunity.

The Government

127. The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government should: (a) immediately establish the inter-Congolese dialogue, cooperating closely and actively with the Facilitator, who is a friend of the Congolese people, and with those who accompany him; (b) repeal the legislation on political parties and non-governmental organizations, recognize those which already exist and allow them to operate; (c) abolish the death penalty; (d) eliminate the Military Court; (e) free all political prisoners; (f) cease all forms of pressure or censorship of the press; (g) abolish the Constitutional and Legislative Assembly in order to permit the dialogue agreed to in Lusaka; (h) cease all cooperation with the Mai-Mai and the Interahamwe; (i) commute death sentences; (j) begin the demobilization of child soldiers; (k) restore relations with other States, intergovernmental organizations, the United Nations and OAU and attend the conferences and meetings organized by them since none of them is an enemy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all of them are simply endeavouring to assist it; (l) authorize the Human Rights Field Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to visit not only the jails, but all places of detention; (m) implement a human rights action plan; and (n) give international human rights instruments precedence over national law and honour the commitments made under them.

RCD and other rebel groups

128. The Special Rapporteur recommends that RCD and other rebel groups should: (a) cease all cooperation with foreign armies; (b) avoid committing any act which implies the exercise of sovereignty over foreign armies (including the flying of flags, partition or creation of provinces, town-twinning or sale of public property); (c) refrain from issuing fictitious accounts of

the atrocities committed by their troops and foreign allies and conduct objective investigations of allegations; (d) free political prisoners; (e) demand that their foreign allies return the deported Congolese to the State; (f) abolish the death penalty; (g) cease to interpret all acts of opposition as an alleged incitement to ethnic hatred; (h) permit organizations of civil society, particularly human rights organizations, to function freely; and (i) demobilize child soldiers.

Foreign armies occupying Congolese territory

129. The Special Rapporteur recommends that the foreign armies occupying Congolese territory should: (a) implement the Lusaka Agreement and, in particular, Security Council resolution 1304 (2000), which demands that they should withdraw immediately and prior to the withdrawal of the forces present at the Government's invitation; (b) accept the fact that they have lost all respect in the eyes of the Congolese people and refrain from all reprisal; (c) permit investigations of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and, in particular, of the massacres that took place on 2 August 1998; (d) provide immediate compensation to the victims of the incidents that occurred at Kisangi and in other parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and (e) return the Congolese property that has been taken from the country since 1998.

Organs of the United Nations

130. The Special Rapporteur recommends that the organs of the United Nations should: (a) continue to support the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the inter-Congolese dialogue; (b) heed the words of the special rapporteurs on human rights in order to prevent recurrence of the incident reported in the Carlsson report on the occasion of the genocide in Rwanda, which a special rapporteur had predicted a year in advance without any action being taken. This recommendation is especially important in light of the establishment of peacekeeping mechanisms; (c) provide greater financial and logistical assistance to the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights; and (d) establish an effective arms embargo on all countries involved in the Congolese conflict.

Other organs of the international community

131. The Special Rapporteur recommends that other organs of the international community should: (a) support the peace process, the inter-Congolese dialogue and the democratization process; and (b) make their voices heard and their moral authority felt with regard to the massacres committed on Congolese soil.

Notes

[1] Chad withdrew its forces on 26 May 1999. The Sudan has troops in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but these are not participating in the fighting.

[2] The Security Council (see S/PRST/2000/20) established an expert panel on the illegal exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

[3] The Mai-Mai guerrillas, originally from the Banande and Bahunde tribes, have enlisted thousands of young people from all ethnic groups who are opposed to what they refer to as "Rwandan aggression". See E/CN.4/1999/42, note 4.

[4] In his report to the Commission on Human Rights (see E/CN.4/2000/42, para. 18), the Special Rapporteur stated that there is a general feeling throughout the country that the international community is not doing anything to end the conflict but that when that abstraction does do something, it is rejected for doing so. This reaction confirms this.

[5] See, for example, the statement by the Conference of Catholic Bishops in August 2000.

[6] The Special Rapporteur's report to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2000/42) deals with individual cases of human rights violations.